

BUBBLE BOY

rewrite by

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SECOND DRAFT

DARKNESS. BUH-BUM. BUH-BUM. A HEARTBEAT. The muffled sound of gurney wheels SQUEAKING. The CRASH of metal against metal. Impatient shouting. A machine starts to BEEP. Then a small circle of LIGHT illuminates the darkness. Two GLOVED HANDS reach in and pull us out ...

INT: HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

From a BABY'S POV, we get a quick look around the delivery room, plastic curtains, equipment. MRS. LIVINGSTON lies in bed with her knees up. We're in the hands of a NURSE who, instead of putting us in the arms of our mother, quickly stuffs us in ...

A CLEAR PLASTIC BOX. The nurse shuts the door.

Various FACES look down at us through the plastic, distorted horribly by the curves, looking monstrous and frightening. Reacting to all this is ...

THE BABY. Tiny, red-faced, and screaming in terror.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I was born May 14, 1973, without immunities. My name is Jimmy Livingston. But you can call me Bubble Boy. Everyone else does.

INT: HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

A NURSE and TECHNICIAN roll the plastic box down the hallway. BABY JIMMY stares out in wide-eyed bewilderment.

JIMMY (V.O.)

My first home was a plastic box which served as my only defense against millions of germs, any one of which would kill me.

INT: NEONATAL ROOM - NIGHT

A FAT BABY is breast-fed by its buxom mother. PULL BACK TO REVEAL baby Jimmy watching hungrily from his plastic box. He turns and sees ANOTHER FAT BABY feasting away.

JIMMY (V.O.)

So while my peers suckled warm, maternal, honking horns of plenty, I was left to make do with the best technology had to offer.

Baby Jimmy starts to cry. This activates an AUTOMATIC BOTTLE DEVICE. The bottle begins to lower. Baby Jimmy sees the nipple coming and opens his mouth. And the nipple POKES HIM right in the eye.

INT: LIVINGSTON BEDROOM - NIGHT

MR. and MRS. LIVINGSTON kneel before Christ on the cross hanging from the wall. MR. is rather timid and quiet; MRS. is prim and sweet in a stomach churning kind of way.

JIMMY (V.O.)

My parents, God-fearing folks determined to see my plight as a blessing in disguise, thanked the Lord nightly for their "miracle baby."

MRS. LIVINGSTON

... and please forgive Mr. Livingston for the selfish sins of his youth, which clearly weakened his sperm, giving us this special needs child. Amen.

And MR. just eats it.

EXT: LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

A classic middle American home, complete with white picket fence surrounding a perfectly tended yard. A WOOD-PANELED STATION WAGON pulls in the drive.

JIMMY (V.O.)

At the age of eight I was finally allowed to go home to our house in Palmdale, California.

The Livingstons wheel EIGHT-YEAR-OLD JIMMY in a large plastic box out of their station wagon. Jimmy peers out at all the sights: a DOG running, an OLD MAN watering his lawn, FLOWERS swaying in the breeze, BIRDS in the air and ... a BIG BIRD TURD plops on his plastic box.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Oh those flippin winged rats!

She frantically wipes it away with her sleeve, smearing gooey shit around. But Jimmy finds it all fascinating.

INT: LIVINGSTON HOME - CONTINUOUS

They enter the house. AND SLAM! Mrs. Livingston closes the door on the outside world. She turns to Jimmy.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

There. Now you're safe from all that. You're home Jimmy.

Jimmy takes in his new home. The walls are decorated with all sorts of patriotic and Christian paraphernalia: pictures of Nixon and Ford flank a beatific Jesus.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
And you'll never ... ever ... have to
go out there again.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

This is the BUBBLE ROOM, a bedroom divided in half by a PLASTIC WALL. A LARGE CRAWL TUBE leads out of it to the bubble bathroom. A fan circulates the air.

JIMMY (V.O.)
I had my own room, a giant plastic
bubble designed by doctors to keep me
totally germ-free. Outside of it I
could only survive a few hours.

There are several toys in the room, including a BLOW-UP CLOWN PUNCHING BAG. Jimmy lies in his little bed as his mother reads him a bedtime story.

JIMMY (V.O.)
So my mother did her best to emphasize
the importance of staying inside.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
... then Rapunzel left her plastic
bubble. And died. The end.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

There's a FLUSH from the bathroom. And Jimmy, now SIXTEEN-YEARS-OLD, crawls through the tube back to his bedroom.

JIMMY (V.O.)
The years went by, and I grew
accustomed to my life in the bubble. I
had TV....

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jimmy sits in front of the TV, watching the stop motion Christian show "Davey and Goliath." His mother is on her hands and knees, scrubbing the floor.

JIMMY
I wish TVs had more than one channel
mom.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
They don't dear.

JIMMY (V.O.)
I had my magazine subscription.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jimmy sits on his bed, reading a "Hi-Life" magazine. His mother is outside, on a ladder, taping all around the cracks of his windows.

JIMMY

I wish they published more than one magazine in the world mom.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

They don't dear.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I had three germ-free meals a day ...

SHOT - MRS. LIVINGSTON in her kitchen, punching out what looks like angel-shapes with a cookie cutter.

SHOT - JIMMY'S dinner is several VITAMIN PILLS and those bland-looking GERM-FREE NUTRITION angels. He eats happily.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I had my guitar ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy jams away on his acoustic guitar.

JIMMY (V.O.)

My bike ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jimmy sits on the banana seat of his Schwinn as Mr. Livingston holds on with the spacesuit arms. He lets go and Jimmy pedals across his room about four feet before crashing into the wall. His parents clap. Jimmy smiles.

JIMMY (V.O.)

My Mechano Set ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy has built something terribly complicated from his Mechano Set. When he blows on the fan of a flywheel, the contraption's gears spin and a marble is catapulted across the room, bouncing off the plastic wall inches from his Mother's face who just happens to be Windexing. She jumps. He smiles. She gives him a disapproving look. He stops smiling, goes back to his tinkering.

JIMMY (V.O.)

My neighborhood friends ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jimmy stares out the window as a group of boys chant.

BOYS

"Bubble Boy, Bubble Boy!
Playing with his bubble toys!"

Jimmy waves happily down at them. One of the boys pegs a rock at his window. Suddenly Mrs. Livingston appears, spraying the boys with a HOSE. They run away screaming.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And the most loving mother a boy could wish for.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Livingston ties Jimmy's shoes using the bubble arms. She combs his hair, buttons his shirt.

JIMMY (V.O.)

All in all, I was content. And would probably have stayed that way forever. If not for ...

BEEP-BEEP! Jimmy hurries to the window. Below he sees a taxi pull into the neighbor's drive. And out steps ...

... GINA. A beautiful and sad teenage girl. Jimmy watches her from the window, mesmerized.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Her name was Gina. And she was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen.

The driver gets out of the car and hands Gina her suitcase. She glances up at Jimmy's window. Jimmy stands there, caught in her eyes. So he grins and gives her a shy wave. But Gina doesn't react, just stares.

An OLD LADY steps out of the house, hands on her hips. Gina turns to face the Old Lady. Neither says or does anything. Finally the Old Lady pushes the front door open wide and steps aside. Gina heads for the door.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Gina's mom died of cancer so she had to come and live with her grandma.

Gina pauses at the door, turns and finally gives Jimmy the smallest of waves. Then she disappears inside.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Mom explained that if I played with Gina I'd die of cancer too.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy lies in bed as Mrs. Livingston reads to him.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

... and then Pinocchio came out of his
plastic bubble, touched the filthy
little girl next door ... and died.
The end.

Mrs. Livingston closes the book and smiles.

JIMMY (V.O.)

But nothing could keep me from
watching Gina.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jimmy sits at his window with his guitar, watching Gina
kick a soccer ball around on the front lawn.

JIMMY

"Gina,
Since I saw your face
I'm caught between a rock
and a hard place ..."

Jimmy stares longingly at Gina. As if feeling his look,
Gina glances up at the window. Jimmy quickly ducks.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And then, one day, fate stepped in.

EXT: STREET - DAY

A convertible Mustang pulls up in front of Gina's house,
driven by jocks MARK and SHAWN, stereo blaring. Gina
grabs her backpack and climbs out.

MARK

Dude! You live here? Next door to the
Bubble Boy?

GINA

Yeah. I've never met him though.

The three look up at Jimmy's bedroom window.

SHAWN

You know what I heard? The only thing
he can drink is his own urine.

MARK

Gross!

GINA
That's not true.

SHAWN
It is! I swear!

GINA
Then what'd he drink to make the urine
in the first place?

Shawn stares back, trying to wrap his brain around this.

GINA (cont'd)
He's not a monster. He's just a boy in
a bubble.

MARK
Yeah? Well if you think he's so great
why don't you go up there and sip a
glass of cold piss with him?

The two pull away, dying laughing, leaving Gina standing
there. She stares up at Jimmy's bedroom window.

INT: LIVINGSTON HOME - DAY

A KNOCK. ANOTHER KNOCK. And the door carefully opens.
Gina shyly pokes her head in.

GINA
Hello?

No answer. So she makes her way cautiously through the
room. She stops at the bottom of the stairs.

GINA (cont'd)
Hello? Anybody home?

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy is in his bubble, singing and strumming his guitar
as he performs the closing theme from "Land of the Lost."

JIMMY
"When I look all around
I can't believe the things I've found
I need to find my way
I'm lost, I'm lost ... find me!
Living in the Land of the Lost!

Jimmy sings the last verse with all his might. Then he
turns and SEES GINA. HE SCREAMS. SHE SCREAMS. And Jimmy
TOPPLES BACKWARDS over a chair.

GINA
I'm sorry, I'm sorry, are you ...

Jimmy springs to his feet, trying to act casual. And trying not to stare at Gina's bare midriff, never having been exposed to this much female skin in his life.

JIMMY

Ah yeah, fine, just ya know, playing a little tits - tunes, tunes I said.

GINA

You must really like "Land of the Lost?"

JIMMY

(shrugging it off)

Oh no. That was ... I was just ...

GINA

I love "Land of the Lost."

And Jimmy stares at Gina, stunned.

JIMMY

I love you too.

(horrified)

It. It too. I love it. Too.

Gina beams a smile at him then steps gingerly into the room, looking around. Jimmy quickly grabs a chair and offers it up to her. Then realizes of course that he's behind a bubble wall. So he sits in it instead.

GINA

I'm ... I'm Gina.

JIMMY

I'm Jimmy.

GINA

I know.

JIMMY

Oh see, I knew that too. I mean, your name. I know my name. I've known my name for - gosh, a long time. But I meant your name. And your name's Gina. Which I knew.

Gina steps up, feels the bubble wall. Then she steps back, realizing she's making him feel ill at ease.

GINA

Um ... okay, I'll just jump right in.

JIMMY

In here?

GINA

No, see, we're supposed to do a paper about the most interesting person we've ever met. But I don't really know any interesting people. So ... I was thinking ... maybe you ...?

JIMMY

Geez, I don't really know any interesting people either.

GINA

No. I meant ... you.

JIMMY

Me? But - but I'm not interesting.

GINA

Well - you live in a bubble.

JIMMY

Yeah but I don't do a heck of a lot in this bubble.

GINA

You play the guitar. I mean, that's pretty rad.

JIMMY

... rad.

(trying out word for the
first time)

Yeah, it's darn rad.

GINA

I sort of play guitar too ya know.

JIMMY

Really? Let's hear.

Jimmy slides the guitar out the bubble door to her. Gina stares at it, unsure whether to pick it up.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Go ahead.

Gina grabs the guitar. She takes a deep breath and she begins to play. And it quickly becomes obvious that she is quite possibly the worst guitarist ever.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Wow. That's ... pretty amazing.

GINA

You thought it blew, didn't you?

JIMMY

Oh no, I think

(why lie?)

... it blew like the wind.

(she laughs)

But I could teach you some things.

GINA

Seriously? Great!

Gina holds up the guitar.

GINA (cont'd)

How do I get this back to you? I mean

... it's got my germs and stuff on it
now, right?

Jimmy points to a plastic drawer on his bubble wall.

JIMMY

Just stick it in the decontamination
bay there.

Gina opens the bay door and places the guitar inside.
Jimmy presses a button and the bay is filled with a WHITE
MIST. Then Jimmy opens the door on his side and pulls out
the guitar. He strums it. Two strings break. A chunk of
varnish peels back.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Well - at least it's clean.

Gina picks up her day pack, a bit shy suddenly.

GINA

So tomorrow? We'll start?

JIMMY

That soon? Gee, I don't know, I'm
kinda busy. I mean, I've got errands
to run, some big meetings

(Gina laughs)

Ah okay, I'll make it work.

GINA

Great. See ya!

JIMMY

Rad!

She leaves. Jimmy watches her go, excited about his
newfound friend. Actually, his only friend. Ever.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Mom, of course, was supportive of my
new friend.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Livingston sprays the room in a fog of LYSOL so thick it's hard to see her. Jimmy watches apprehensively.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

She's certainly proud of that navel. I mean why bother with a top at all? Just walk around wearing pasties.

Now that gets Jimmy thinking, staring off with a grin. Mrs. Livingston pokes her head out of the fog and takes in her son's expression with a disgusted scowl.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

Something tells me she's not the sort of friend Jesus would pick Jimmy.

And Mrs. Livingston sprays away every remnant of Gina.

JIMMY (V.O.)

But despite her best efforts, Gina and I became friends.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Gina sits on the floor with her guitar as Jimmy, using the arms in the bubble wall, teaches her to play. There is real sexual tension here. Mrs. Livingston comes in with a DUSTBUSTER and cleans furiously, eyeing them.

JIMMY (V.O.)

We did everything together.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

We see various scenes of the friendship over the years:

1) HALLOWEEN. Gina brings a group of LITTLE KIDS in costume trick-or-treating. Jimmy, wearing a GOLDFISH COSTUME, pretends to swim around, then gloms on to the bubble wall with his big lips. One little kid screams in terror and runs out of the room.

2) SUMMER. Jimmy and Gina lie on beach towels by the window in swim suits and shades. Gina's in a bikini and looks great. Mrs. Livingston comes in with a vacuum and starts cleaning around her, even under her bent knees.

3) CHRISTMAS. Jimmy opens a present from Gina. It's a GUINEA PIG in its own plastic ball.

GINA

He reminded me of you.

Bubble Guinea Pig rolls across the floor. The two laugh.

5) VACATION. And we see SHOTS of Gina giving Jimmy (through the decontamination bay) snowglobes from around the country: THE GRAND CANYON, STATUE OF LIBERTY, etc. An entire wall has become a map of snowglobes, from Hawaii to Maine. Jimmy has a MT. RUSHMORE globe in his hands.

JIMMY

Wow, a mountain that grows faces on it.

GINA

No no, they carved those faces in.

JIMMY

Yeah? Why?

GINA

Because those men were famous.

JIMMY

Because their heads were so big?

GINA

(long beat)

Uh ... yeah something like that.

Jimmy sets it with the others, steps back.

GINA (cont'd)

Some day we'll visit all these places together Jimmy. I know we will.

4) PROM NIGHT. Gina, decked out, poses as Jimmy aims the camera. The camera flashes, capturing Gina looking beautiful. Suddenly Mark enters the room in a tux.

MARK

You gonna be much longer babe?

GINA

Oh just give me a minute to use the bathroom.

MARK

Yeah sure, you go drain it, I'll hang here with your, uh ... bubble buddy.

Gina hurries out, leaving Mark and Jimmy alone together. Neither knows what to say. And Mark's not trying to help matters. He pulls out a smoke, lights it. Then offers one up to Jimmy. Jimmy declines.

MARK (cont'd)

No germs huh?

Jimmy just shrugs. Mark takes in the room.

MARK (cont'd)

You gotta crawl through that tube to take a shit? That's a drag.

Jimmy still doesn't know what to say. Mark approaches the bubble wall, leans against it. But now his cigarette, casually pinched between his fingers, is mere millimeters away from the plastic.

MARK (cont'd)

You and Gina are real tight, huh?
That's nice.

Jimmy's staring at the cigarette.

MARK (cont'd)

So if you stepped outside this thing you'd croak, right? That's a drag.

The plastic just starts to warp the tiniest bit under the cigarette's heat as Gina suddenly steps back in the room.

GINA

Okay, I'm ready.

Mark steps away and drops an arm around Gina.

MARK

Nice chattin with ya Jim.

GINA

I'll call you later Jimmy. Bye.

And they're gone.

GINA (O.S.)

Bye Mrs. Livingston!

MRS. LIVINGSTON (O.S.)

(phony as hell)

Oh, leaving so soon Gina!

And Jimmy's left there in the middle of his room.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Then one night, Gina stayed over. Her grandma needed an operation.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy is on his bed, in his pajamas, excited to have Gina there. Gina is just on the other side of the plastic wall, in her nightgown, on a cot. But she seems crushed with sadness as she strums her guitar, singing "The Land of the Lost" as though it was the most painful ballad.

GINA

"I'm lost, I'm lost ... find me.
Living in the Land of the Lost."

JIMMY

(floored)

That was - that was beautiful.

Gina sets her guitar down, then she simply lies in bed, silent. Jimmy lies down too. He flicks out the light. The two lie in the dark, not a word spoken. Then ...

GINA

(just barely)

Something bad always happens to
everyone I love.

Jimmy slips his arms into the robotic arms. He delicately touches her hair.

JIMMY

(whispers)

Then I guess it's a good thing you
don't love me, huh?

GINA

Yeah. Yeah I guess it is.

That's not the way that conversation was supposed to end.

SHOT - MOTHER's vacuuming just outside the door. But she has her ear to it, listening for anything suspicious.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Other than Gina not loving me,
everything was perfect.

(beat)

Until ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Gina stands before Jimmy, dressed for travel. Jimmy plays with Bubble Guinea Pig. Gina's working up to say something and Jimmy's having trouble meeting her gaze.

JIMMY

You - goin somewhere?

GINA

Um - see ... you know Mark?

HONK! Jimmy glances out the window and sees Mark waiting in his BMW, luggage strapped to the top.

JIMMY

Yeah. I know Mark.

GINA

Well ... we've kind of been going out
off and on for awhile and, well, he
kind of ... he asked me

She can't say it.

JIMMY

To go steady?
(she shakes her head)
To go on vacation?
(shakes her head again.
Then, just barely)
To get married?

That's the one. Gina nods.

JIMMY (cont'd)

And what did you say?

Gina nods again. That's it then. Nothing more to say.

GINA

The wedding's next Saturday ... in
Niagara Falls.
(Jimmy's floored)
I didn't - I didn't know how to tell
you Jimmy, because - I know you can't
be there ... and ... and Mark just got
a new job in New York.

Jimmy looks like he's dying. This can't be happening.

GINA (cont'd)

The thing is ... I wanted to know what
- what you thought? Because, it's -
it's so hard. And I just can't stay
here with grandma anymore so it's -
it's kind of - a way out and ...

Jimmy's trying to collect himself, trying to be strong.

GINA (cont'd)

It's like, remember in "Land of the
Lost" when Enik had to decide whether
to stay with Marshall, Will and Holly
or return through the time doorway to
his own people?

JIMMY

I hated that episode.

GINA

Me too.

Gina looks at Jimmy. There's something in her eyes, something pleading, and Jimmy's dying to tell her stay. But he can't.

JIMMY

You know, even though ... even though we wanted Enik to stay ... we knew he had to go.

And something crosses Gina's eyes. An acceptance. It wasn't the answer she wanted. But it's the one she got. She nods solemnly. HONK HONK!

GINA

I got you something.

Gina puts a small wrapped gift in the decontamination bay. Jimmy pushes the button. Then he picks up Bubble Guinea Pig.

JIMMY

Here. Take Bubble Guinea Pig.

GINA

Oh no, I can't ...

JIMMY

Please. He'll remind you of me.

Jimmy rolls Bubble Guinea Pig. Gina picks it up. HONK! HOOONNNKK! Gina quickly leans in and gives Jimmy a "kiss" on the cheek. Jimmy rubs his cheek. Gina's struggling to hold back tears. She hurries to leave, then pauses.

GINA

You know - remember that paper I was supposed to write? The one about you? There was no paper Jimmy. I just wanted to meet you, that's all.

And off she goes. Out of Jimmy's life. Jimmy heads for the window and watches as she runs to the car and climbs in. Immediately the car pulls away. She's gone.

Jimmy is crushed. He glances about his lonely sterile room. On the wall, he sees the perfect lipstick print of Gina's lips where she kissed it.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy lies on his back, staring off, nearly comatose. His mother can barely contain her glee, cleaning furiously.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

I knew this would happen. I tried to warn you Jimmy but you wouldn't

(MORE)

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
listen. It's high time you realized
that all women - except your mother of
course - will leave you some day.

JIMMY
But we belong together mom.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Nonsense. Gina belongs with that Mark
person. And you belong here with us.
You're a bubble boy Jimmy. What girl
would ever marry a bubble boy?

Jimmy looks at the lipstick. He reaches up and touches
it. Mrs. Livingston, seeing it for the first time,
quickly and efficiently wipes away all traces of it.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Believe me Jimmy, if that Gina was at
all interested in you she would have
given you some sort of sign. But she
didn't. Because she's a skank.

(smiles, upbeat)
Now let's put this behind us. I'm
making my special Jesus-shaped
nutrition squares for dinner! And if
you're good I'll add the crown of
thorns. Yum yum!

Mrs. Livingston marches briskly out. Jimmy looks for the
lipstick mark but it's gone. Then he spots Gina's gift in
the decontamination bay. He takes it out, unwraps it.

It's a WEDDING INVITATION. And a NIAGARA FALLS SNOWGLOBE.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (V.O.)
" ... if that Gina was at all
interested in you she would have given
you some sort of sign."

Jimmy shakes up the snowglobe.

GINA (V.O.)
" ... I don't know. It's just so ...
it's just so hard ..."

Jimmy suddenly sits up.

JIMMY
She wanted to stay. She wanted me to
ask her to stay. How could I be so
stupid!

And he puts his head back and wails ...

JIMMY (cont'd)
GIIIIINNNAAAA!!!

INT: KITCHEN - LIVINGSTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Livingston is just pulling a tray of Jesus shaped bars from the oven as the scream resonates through the house. She drops them on the floor.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Oh my good Christ!

Mr. Livingston is watching TV.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
That little nut buster left just in
the nick of time Morton!

Mr. Livingston turns his attention back to the TV. It's a commercial, a bunch of young white people in tee shirts that say BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE, led by LORRAINE.

LORRAINE
Feeling blue? We NEVER do! We're
Bright Shiny People! Come join us!

As we watch the Bright Shiny People do some clunky dance moves before a small crowd, the ANNOUNCER deadpans.

ANOUNCER (V.O.)
Bright Shiny People, Aren't People
Great Tour. Palmdale Civic Center
tonight at eight. "Making America a
better place, one person at a time."

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy's working in the dark on something.

JIMMY (V.O.)
I realized that night that I'd made
the biggest mistake of my life. Enik
should have stayed with Marshall and
Holly. And I had to stop that wedding.

He holds up a drawing of what looks like a bubble suit. A round, clear bubble from the hips to just above the head, with attached legs and arms identical to the ones on his bubble room wall.

JIMMY (V.O.)
Thus Operation Bubble Suit was born.

SHOT - A WEAK FLASHLIGHT beam shows the floor covered with plans for the mobile bubble suit.

SHOT - JIMMY tinkers with a small fan, some tubing, cutting large sheets of plastic.

SHOT - JIMMY pries the mechanical arms off his bubble wall, quickly sealing the holes left with duct tape.

SHOT - JIMMY straps on a BACKPACK which is connected to a large hose. The hose leads down into a pile of what looks like several deflated, plastic rafts. Jimmy takes a deep breath then pulls the mass of clear plastic over his head. He puts his legs through the pant legs. He quickly begins to seal up the openings with duct tape. Once covered, he flips a switch on the backpack.

Jimmy's eyes widen as the plastic grows bigger and bigger until it forms ...

A ROUND CLEAR BUBBLE all around him.

He glances about, checking for leaks. Then he approaches the doorway to his bubble room. This is the moment of truth. Jimmy takes a deep breath and tries to step through. His bubble doesn't even come close to fitting and he's bounced back.

So Jimmy does what he must. He picks up the scissors. He hesitates. Then he SLICES RIGHT THROUGH the plastic wall.

Jimmy steps through the opening. And he finds himself outside his bubble room. For the first time in years. He smiles, takes one last look around, then he's off.

INT: HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy looks down the hallway to his parents' room. Mr. and Mrs. Livingston lie fast asleep in two separate beds. Jimmy turns to the staircase. He quietly takes a step.

SQUEAK. His bubble makes it a tight fit between the wall and the bannister. He struggles. And then HE TOPPLES and begins to roll, flipping HEAD OVER HEELS, and he quietly lands ON HIS FEET at the bottom of the stairs. Whew.

Jimmy looks around the living room. It hasn't changed in twenty years. A LARGE PORTRAIT of Mrs. Livingston watches him from above the fireplace, where embers still burn.

He looks to the front door. He heads for it. BOOP. The side of his bubble hits a VASE. The vase wobbles on the table. Jimmy quickly grabs it. As he does ...

BOOMP. The other side of the suit connects with a LAMP on the mantle. Jimmy sets the vase down, spins and grabs the lamp. Everything's fine, he stands there frozen ...

SHOT - MRS. LIVINGSTON stirs in bed but doesn't wake up.

Jimmy puts everything back when ... THUNK. The bubble hits his mother's portrait and knocks it off the wall.

It lands in front of the fireplace. THK. THK. Two IRON PRONGS burst through the canvas, forming devil horns. WHOOSH. Glowing embers fly out of the fireplace and land on Mrs. Livingston's eyes. Jimmy stares in horror at the demonic image of his mother. He gasps and makes a break for the front door. He turns the knob, swings it open ...

FOOMP. The bubble wedges itself in the doorway. He's stuck. Jimmy kicks and flails. Then he pulls on the sides of the door frame as hard as he can until ...

FUMP! The bubble pops out of the doorway.

EXT: LIVINGSTON HOME - NIGHT

And he rolls out into the middle of the street. Jimmy gets on his feet and looks up and down the street.

JIMMY

Road.

He rubs his gloved hands on the pavement, "touching" it for the first time. He smiles. Then he spots a tree.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Tree.

He runs up to it, strokes the bark. Then he impulsively hugs it. He smiles. Then he frowns. He looks down.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Dog doo.

Then he gets a huge smile on his face.

JIMMY (cont'd)

This is awesome!

He jogs down the street, feeling great. He breaks into a run, but his legs are stiff and weird, kicking out oddly, he's not used to it.

JIMMY (cont'd)

I'm - I'm running!

JIMMY TRIPS and rolls a couple times, coming to rest on his butt. He springs to his feet.

JIMMY (cont'd)

I'm okay!

He continues to run, a real Special Olympics kind of sprint. He falls again, and this time starts to roll down the slight incline of the street.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Woooo hooooo!

(beat/he can't stop)

Okay I'm - I'm gettin a little dizzy.

JIMMY ROLLS ALL THE WAY down the street until he disappears into the darkness. And then THE CAMERA CRANES UP and BACK and back until it backs right through the window and into the LIVINGSTONS' bedroom. There's MRS., the slumber of the innocent. And then THERE'S MR., eyes wide open, but not moving an inch. FADE OUT.

INT: BUS STATION - NIGHT

Jimmy steps up to the ticket window.

JIMMY

I'm going to Niagara Falls. The girl I love is getting married on Saturday. Today's Wednesday. Three days should be enough time. What do you think?

TICKET AGENT

I don't care. That'll be \$260. Plus, I gotta charge you an additional seat because of that stupid thing you're wearing.

JIMMY

But - I don't have that much money. I'm a bubble boy. I need this stupid thing to survive.

TICKET AGENT

I love a sad story. Next!

Jimmy steps away from the window, crushed. But a young, doe-eyed girl, like something from a Robert Keane painting, has been watching. This is LORRAINE, the girl from the TV commercial. She approaches Jimmy now.

LORRAINE

Excuse me, I couldn't help but overhear.

JIMMY

Oh I'm sorry, I was trying to do it quietly. When you roll downhill for ten blocks you get a little gassy.

LORRAINE

No, I meant your conversation with the ticket agent. I think I can help.

INT: BUS - NIGHT

Lorraine pulls Jimmy aboard a bus crammed full of bright, smiling young people, all wearing the identical tee shirts that say, BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE.

LORRAINE

Everyone, this is Jimmy. Jimmy has no immunities!

EVERYONE

Hi Jimmy!!

LORRAINE

We're Bright Shiny People Jimmy.

JIMMY

I'll say you are!

The group leader steps up, older than the rest, Chiclet white teeth and blow dried hair. This is TODD.

LORRAINE

Can Jimmy ride along Todd?

TODD

Of course he can. Welcome aboard Jimmy.

JIMMY

Thanks Todd. Where you guy's heading?

TODD

Due East.

JIMMY

Duey's? Is that anywhere near Niagara Falls?

TODD

Uh - it is if we want it to be.

JIMMY

Rad!

And they all suddenly go silent, stone faced.

BOY #1

Was - was that a swear?

JIMMY

Um - I don't think so.

So they all instantly smile again.

BOY #1

Cool!

Jimmy looks around for a seat. There's a vacancy in the very back. So off Jimmy goes down the aisle, past all the smiling faces. He smiles back. And row by row he bonks the heads and faces of every Shiny Person.

EXT: BUS - LATER

As the bus cruises down the highway, we can HEAR SINGING.

EVERYONE

"Bright, shiny people,
you can see us wherever you go!
Bright shiny people,
we love God and hate homos!"

INT: BUS - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy is squeezed in the back, smiling excitedly as the Shinies sing. Lorraine sits next to him.

LORRAINE

You see Jimmy, people aren't nice to people anymore. But Bright Shiny People are going to change that. We sing at schools and gymnasiums, recruiting as we go, making people feel good about being people, one person at a time.

EVERYONE

That's right!

JIMMY

I feel great about being a person.

LORRAINE

We build confidence!

JIMMY

I've got lots of confidence!

He looks out, amazed at the most ordinary sights.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Wow! Look at that! Look at the buildings! They go right up to the sky! And there's a cat! Wait a minute, no it's a rock! But it looked like a cat!

(points)

And look! There's a Negro! Look at him strut! Just like on TV!

There's a token black kid amongst the Bright Shiny People. He stares at Jimmy with an odd frozen smile on his face. The Bright Shiny People exchange strange looks now. But Jimmy prattles on innocently.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Oh here comes a stop light! It's red.
It's red. It's still red. Still red.
It's green! Let's go!

His enthusiasm is already getting a touch annoying. Lorraine winces, she's responsible.

JIMMY (cont'd)

(points again)

Wow! Look what that dog's doing. I wish I could do that! He's licking his own testis...!

LORRAINE

(quickly)

Do you know any songs Jimmy?

JIMMY

You kidding? I know lots of songs. Here, I'll do one, you see if you can guess it.

Everyone nods to that, sounds like fun. So Jimmy energetically hums the theme to "Land of the Lost."

JIMMY (cont'd)

Do do do do do doo do! Come on, guess! Do do do doo do do doo do! Anybody? Do do doooo do do do doo do dit do dooooooh!

Jimmy's done, a big smile. No one knows, awkward smiles frozen back at him.

LORRAINE

(attempting)

Was that... Onward Christian Soldiers?

JIMMY

I don't think so! That was the theme song from the greatest show of all time. "Land of the Lost!"

(points at the black kid)

Okay, here's one for you my man!

(does "The Jeffersons" theme)

Doodoo do doot! Doodoo do doot! To a deluxe doo doot do in the doot doo do!

BLACK KID

(deadpan)

The Jeffersons.

JIMMY
Right on brother!

EXT: BUS - CONTINUOUS

And the bus zooms down the road.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Okay, try this one!

INT: BUS - LATER

It's TWO HOURS LATER. And Jimmy's enthusiasm hasn't waned a bit. The Bright Shiny People cover their ears and bury their heads in pillows. Jimmy's still playing the game.

JIMMY
Do doo do doo do doot doo doo. It was
in a war do do. Radar and Hawkeye do
do do. Do doo do doo it was really
funnnnyyyy! Nobody knows this one!
Come on!

No response from anyone. Jimmy takes a bite from one of his germ free nutrition squares, looks out the window.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Alright, here's an easy one!

And there's no response from anyone. Except perhaps a palpable hatred.

EXT: LIVINGSTON HOME - MORNING

The sun rises over the Livingston home the next morning.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - MORNING

Mrs. Livingston enters Jimmy's room carrying a breakfast tray of vitamins and pills, not to mention his morning nutrition squares. She calls out cheerfully.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Jimmy! Breakfast!

She strides right in like she does every morning. Except this morning she walks through the GIANT HOLE in the bubble wall as though that's also part of her routine.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Up and at em lazy bones!

She looks for a place to set down the tray, then realizes she never puts it here and she steps back out. Then she stops. She SPINS AROUND, dropping the tray. She scrambles back into the bubble room, panicking. There's something

under the sheets of the bed. She yanks them off. Staring up at her is the CLOWN PUNCHING BAG grinning away. SHE SCREAMS. She rushes back out when she almost collides with Mr. Livingston standing in the doorway.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
 He's left us Morton! He's left us! Our
 little boy is out there in that
 disgusting filthy horrible ...
 (clutching him)
 Oh Morton, our boy's in danger!

Morton has no expression whatsoever to this news.

EXT: MEADOW - DAY

A beautiful green meadow. A clear blue sky. And Jimmy. In his bubble suit, running through the grass, frolicking happily. At his side, holding his hand, is ...

GINA. In her own bubble suit. They laugh together as they run. And next to them are ...

TWO CHILDREN. A boy and a girl. And they're in bubble suits too, cute as buttons. Trying to keep up is ...

A DOG. Also in a bubble suit. It barks. Muffled. Next to him scurries ...

BUBBLE GUINEA PIG, rolling through the tall grass.

Jimmy's perfect bubble family runs through the field, smiling and laughing together. BIRDS IN BUBBLE SUITS fly overhead, chirping away. Everything is perfect.

INT: BUS - MORNING

Jimmy awakens with a big smile on his face. He stretches lazily. That was a nice dream. The sun is up and shining. The bus isn't moving. He opens his eyes and looks around to see ALL THE BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE smiling at him.

TODD
 Good morning bubble boy!

EVERYONE
 Good morning!

Jimmy sits up, thrilled that everyone's in a better mood.

JIMMY
 Good morning! Where are we?

Lorraine rushes forward, gushing.

LORRAINE
 Niagara Falls Jimmy! We're here!

JIMMY

Already? Gosh, three thousand miles
isn't far at all!

TODD

Everyone clear a path!

LORRAINE

Let the bubble boy out!

Everyone clears the way as Jimmy squeezes past. He pushes
through the door and he POPS OUT OF THE BUS.

EXT: DEATH VALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy looks around. It's desert as far as the eye can
see. He's in the middle of Death Valley.

JIMMY

Uh - wait a sec

SCHHHHHH! Jimmy spins around to find himself up against
the closed bus doors.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Wait! You made a mistake!

VVVRROOOOMMM! The bus pulls away. He runs after it.

JIMMY (cont'd)

This isn't Niagara Falls! Look! I
think it's a desert!

In the back window he sees all the SHINIES smiling back
at him. And they all GIVE HIM THE FINGER.

Jimmy stops running and watches as the bus disappears
down the road. He looks around. Nothing but cactus. And
it's hot. He begins walking the long desert highway. He
holds out his thumb hopefully, but not a car in sight.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Livingston is on the phone, Mr. Livingston standing
in the background. She's not happy.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Yes, I realize in typical cases you
have to wait 48 hours but this is not
a typical case! Our son is a bubble
boy! He'll die out there.

(suddenly steely)

Well, you'll certainly be in my
prayers tonight ... and I'll be
praying you get nut cancer!

She hangs up the phone, turns to her husband.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
 Alright, plan B. Did you finish the note?

He nods meekly, holds it out. She grabs it and reads.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
 "Mr. and Mrs. Livingston. We have kidnapped your son. Pay \$100,000 or he dies. Signed. The Jews."

Mrs. Livingston just stares at her husband in disbelief.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
 Oh for God's sake. Who in their right mind's going to believe that note?
 (beat)
 They're JEWS Morton! They're going to want more than \$100,000! Think man!
 (beat)
 Okay, Plan C. Go warm up the car.

EXT: DEATH VALLEY - DAY

Jimmy staggers along, just barely able to lift each foot. Condensation streaks down the inside of the bubble suit. HE HEARS A CAR approaching. He wipes the fog from the inside of the bubble. His face lights up. He sticks his thumb out extra far.

A Mini-Wini camper van, beat up from overuse and plastered with bumperstickers, slows for a look. A tourist couple and their two kids stare at Jimmy in disbelief.

JIMMY
 Oh man, you guys look good enough to eat!

BOY
 It's Area 51 Dad! Floor it!

THEY SCREAM. AND THE CAMPER ROARS away. Jimmy watches it zoom off down the road. He drops his thumb. He sighs. Then he lifts one heavy foot. And onward he trudges.

INT: PALMDALE BUS STATION - DAY

The Livingstons stand across from that same TICKET AGENT, showing him a photo of Jimmy.

TICKET AGENT
 He got on some charter bus. Bunch a happy people. All white and all weird.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Where was that heading?

TICKET AGENT
Um - east I think. Dunno.

EXT: DEATH VALLEY - DAY

Jimmy lies in the middle of the road, passed out. A VULTURE hops around him. It tries to poke out his eyes but its beak BOUNCES OFF THE BUBBLE. Suddenly, it flaps away with a squawk as we HEAR THE RUMBLE of a motorcycle. A TIRE appears next to Jimmy's head, A SHADOW covers his face. Jimmy comes to, looks up to see ...

SLIM, a big scary biker perched atop his HOG. Long beard, mirrored sunglasses, leather vest. He looks like he's wearing a long-sleeved shirt too, but in actual fact, they're tattoos.

Jimmy just stares at this horrific apparition.

SLIM
You an astronaut?

JIMMY
No. I'm a bubble boy.

SLIM
Bubble boy? Rock on!

EXT: OPEN ROAD - DAY

Jimmy flies down the road on the back of Slim's bike. The bubble wobbles in the wind as Jimmy holds on for life.

SLIM
Name's Slim.

Slim reaches a hand back. Jimmy shakes it.

JIMMY
Jimmy Livingston.

SLIM
Where you headed Jimbo?

JIMMY
Niagara Falls. The girl I love is getting married in two days and I have to stop it.

SLIM
Now that rocks! You gonna kill the dude?

JIMMY

Um - I wasn't planning on it.

SLIM

Man, if my chick ran off with some guy
I'd hold him down and tweak his sack.

JIMMY

(a little uncomfortable)
Welllll, technically she wasn't my
"chick." I never really told her how I
felt.

SLIM

Oh ... well then don't be gettin out
the pliers just yet.

(he roars laughing)

So kid, let me ask you somethin. How
come you're not afraid of me?

JIMMY

(never thought about it)
Ummm I guess - cause you're not afraid
of me?

Slim nods to that, impressed. He likes this kid.

SLIM

I'm goin as far as Red Rock to see
AC/DC live. How's that sound to you?

Sounds great to Jimmy.

JIMMY

Rock on!

VROOOM! Slim guns it, pops a wheelie, and speeds away as
AC/DC's "You Shook Me" plays. Jimmy screams in terror.

EXT: DENVER REST STOP - DAY

There's the Bright Shiny People bus, parked at a rest
stop. The Shinies are greeting everyone with big phony
smiles, selling tee shirts and cassettes.

LORRAINE

Hi, we're Bright Shiny People! Come on
with us and make people happy!

Up on the highway, the Livingston's station wagon goes
barrelling past. Suddenly it LOCKS UP, skidding to a long
smoky stop. The car comes flying backward into the rest
stop. It slides on the gravel up to the Bright Shiny
People, Lorraine still chattering brightly as Mrs.
Livingston bustles out.

LORRAINE (cont'd)

We're making America a friendlier place, one person at a ...

Mrs. Livingston stops right in front of Lorraine and she snaps out the photo of her son like a cop's badge.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Let's start with this person.

Lorraine freezes. Todd steps up and Mrs. Livingston flashes the photo at him now.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

What have you done with my bubble boy!

Now that gets everyone's attention. People stop to listen, arms crossed, accusatory. And the Shinies slowly exchange some pretty guilty looks.

EXT: RED ROCK AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

A huge marquee reads "AC/DC." BOOM! An explosion sends a shower of sparks into the air. The sparks burn out to reveal AC/DC on stage. The sounds of the screaming crowd are drowned out as the band plays "Back in Black."

ANGUS YOUNG

"Back in black! I hit the sack!"

PULL BACK to reveal a sea of frenzied fans. A GIANT BEACH BALL bounces on top of the audience. Further back, Slim and Jimmy are saying their good-byes.

SLIM

Well Jimbo, I'm sure someone in this place is goin your way. But I hear the mosh pit callin. Good luck with Gina. And God help them Shiny bastards if I ever run into them.

And he SMASHES A FIST into his own hand. Then Slim lets go with a whoop, rips off his vest, and dives head first into the crowd. Jimmy watches this in awe.

JIMMY

Now that rocks.

Jimmy turns to the guy next to him.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Excuse me, are you heading to ...?

BONK. The beach ball hits Jimmy and lands right in his hands. He smiles and goes to toss it back to the crowd. When suddenly, HE'S HOISTED in the air and tossed into

the sea of sweaty rock fans! The crowd pushes him like a beach ball. He bounces from fan to fan, having a blast.

JIMMY
 Wooooooo hooooooooo!
 (suddenly remembering)
 Uh - anyone going to Niagara Falls?
 Anyone? No?

Angus Young points to Jimmy on top of the crowd.

ANGUS YOUNG
 Now that bloke knows how to party!

INT: CHURCH - FOYER - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Gina, the girl of Jimmy's dreams, is currently standing in the foyer of a church staring at a BRIDE AND GROOM SNOWGLOBE, phone to her ear. In the b.g., we can see MARK and his family, everyone in casual clothes, as some woman puts them through the paces.

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - SAME

RING-RING! Jimmy's phone rings in his empty room.

INT: CHURCH - FOYER - NEW YORK - SAME

Gina lets it ring a few times, then she hangs up, a worried look on her face.

MARK (O.S.)
 Babe, it's a rehearsal ...

Gina turns and sees Mark standing there.

MARK (cont'd)
 ... so maybe we should rehear...
 (stops)
 Oh no way.

GINA
 What?

Mark taps her bride and groom snowglobe.

MARK
 No way is that going on top of our wedding cake.

GINA
 But ... it's special to me.
 (shakes it)
 Look ... it's snowing!

MARK
 Okay, see, now that's just geeky.

Mark leaves, pausing at the door.

MARK (cont'd)
And ... kinda creepy too.

He goes back into the church. And Gina stands there staring at the snowglobe as the snow flutters down.

EXT: BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE BUS - NIGHT

The bus is headed down the road.

INT: BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE BUS - CONTINUOUS

Inside, the lights are on but everyone sits in silence, heads bowed, sneaking shameful looks to one another.

LORRAINE
We lied to that poor woman.

TODD
And everybody knew we lied.

BOY #1
We don't know that for sure.

TODD
They were throwing rocks!

LORRAINE
She's worried about her son. He knows nothing, he's never been out in the world.

GIRL #1
He's probably still a virgin.

That stops them, everyone staring at this Girl who freezes, caught in the headlights.

LORRAINE
I'm still a virgin.

EVERYONE
We're all still virgins.

GIRL #1
(panicking)
Oh yeah, same here, big time. I mean, I don't even know what fellatio is.

BOY #2
What - what is fellatio?

GIRL #1
 (long beat)
 Ya got me.

EXT: HIGHWAY - NIGHT

There's Slim, changing a flat tire on his bike by the side of the road. The Shiny bus pulls up. Slim glances up and his look instantly goes cold as the door opens.

TODD
 Excuse me sir, but we're a bit lost.
 Do you know the way ...?

SLIM
 To Niagara Falls?

TODD
 I beg your ...?

SLIM
 Because that's where my buddy the
 bubble boy was headin when you left
 him to die in the desert!
 (coming for him)
 Someone oughta teach you ...!

THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT and VRRROOomm! The bus pulls away. Then it suddenly stops. It backs up and CRUSHES SLIM'S BIKE. Slim roars in rage as the bus pulls away.

INT: BUS - CONTINUOUS

Everyone aboard is horrified. Todd turns on the big bellied BUS DRIVER, a misfit amongst this bunch.

TODD
 What did you do that for?

BUS DRIVER
 Hey, you want that guy coming after
 ya? And God knows how many other
 people have heard by now.

That really sinks in with the Shinies.

LORRAINE
 You think ... everyone knows?

GIRL #2
 It'll be in the papers.

BOY #1
 We broke our own charter.

TODD

We won't be able to recruit anybody.

Lorraine stands there, thinking.

LORRAINE

We better get bubble boy back.

EXT: HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Bright Shiny bus roars through a green light. The light changes. And passing through the intersection from the other side is the AC/DC TOUR BUS.

INT: TOUR BUS - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy sits on a long velvet couch inside the elaborate tour bus surrounded by AC/DC and their GROUPIES. He has an AC/DC sticker plastered to his bubble now, as he plays Angus Young's guitar and sings ...

JIMMY

"Living in the Land of the Loooooost!"

Jimmy hits the last chord and is met with wild applause.

ANGUS YOUNG

Somebody write that down. "Land that I Lost." I love it!

The tour bus PULLS INTO A GAS STATION.

JIMMY

Oh good, I need the bathroom.

ANGUS YOUNG

Whattaya mean? Use ours.

JIMMY

Yeah? Ya mean it?

Jimmy's honored. He pulls open the bathroom door. It's tiny. He goes to step inside when BONK. The bubble stops him. He tries sideways, tries pushing harder, veins sticking out on his neck from the strain.

ANGUS YOUNG

Uh ... on second thought.

EXT: GAS STATION - NIGHT

A car pulls up for gas. It's THE LIVINGSTONS' TOWN AND COUNTRY WAGON. Mr. Livingston climbs out at the same time that Jimmy steps out of the restroom. Jimmy's rubbing PERELL hand sanitizer all over, even wiping down the inside of his bubble.

Jimmy doesn't see his dad, so consumed with sterilizing. Mr. Livingston sticks the nozzle in the tank. Then he casually glances to his right. And finds himself LOOKING RIGHT AT JIMMY. Who at the exact same instant finds himself LOOKING RIGHT BACK.

The two merely stare at each other. Jimmy looks like a deer caught in the headlights. So does Mr. Livingston.

And then Mrs. Livingston climbs out of the car.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Morton! Would you ...?
(she stops)
J - Jimmy?

And Jimmy BREAKS FOR IT.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Don't just stand there Morton. Get him!
(they take chase)
Jimmy! Sweetie! Come back!

EXT: STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy runs flat out down the street. He glances back and sees his parents hot on his tail. He turns a corner.

The Livingstons keep running. They turn the same corner. And stop dead. Jimmy's vanished in an alley. So they walk now, searching. They pass a pile of CLEAR PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS. MRS. continues on but Morton pauses.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Jimmy! Sweetie, where are you!

WE HEAR A SLIGHT RUSTLE. Morton glances to the garbage bags. There's Jimmy, lying in their midst, blending in perfectly. He sits up with a start, staring at his father. Morton glances to MRS. but she's unaware. He meets eyes with his son. And then, with a jerk of the head, he indicates that Jimmy should get out of there.

Jimmy frowns. What does this mean? And Morton does it again, Go! Go on!

Jimmy gets to his feet. He hesitantly moves off, eyes still locked on his father. And just before he slips out of the alley he KNOCKS OVER A GLASS BOTTLE. It CLANKS loudly on the concrete.

MRS. SPINS AROUND.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Jimmy!

HE BOLTS for it.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Get him Morton!

Jimmy runs through the night as fast as he can. WHOO-WHOOO! He sees a train starting up at an old trainyard. But this is no ordinary train. It's a ...

CIRCUS TRAIN. All of the cars are filled with giraffes, elephants, tigers, you name it.

The train's picking up speed. Jimmy races toward it. He calls out to an OLD TIMER standing in the station.

JIMMY
Where's this train headed?

OLD TIMER
Due east!

JIMMY
Duey's? Why's everyone going to
Duey's?

Jimmy snaps a glance back at his parents. They're gaining on him. He runs alongside the train, struggling to find a way aboard.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Jimmy! Please!

Suddenly a train car door slides open and A STRANGE
LOOKING HAND reaches out and YANKS HIM INSIDE.

INT: TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

It's completely dark as Jimmy flies across the car and
SLAMS HIS HEAD against the wall. He collapses, out cold.

EXT: TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Outside the train car, an elaborate mural reads: "DR.
PHREAK'S TRAVELING FREAKSHOW: Freaking You Out is Our
Business!" and several cartoonish pictures of freaks.

The Livingstons watch helplessly as the train leaves them
behind, heading for the Rocky Mountains.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Wonderful. Now he's taken up with a
bunch of circus people, the most
ungodly scum of the planet. Nice work
Morton. Bang up job.

She marches away. And Morton eats another.

EXT: CIRCUS TRAIN - MORNING

As the train chugs its way through Kansas.

INT: TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy wakes up. He rubs his head. He looks around and finds himself in a dark, windowless train car. FIVE SHADOWY FORMS are watching him from the blackness.

JIMMY

Hello? Who's there?

VOICE

He's awake. Turn on the light.

A light SNAPS ON, suddenly revealing

FREAKS. There's THE TALLEST MAN, who just also happens to be the skinniest; the ALLIGATOR WOMAN, with skin like a reptile; PINHEAD, complete with dress and thatch of hair on top; RUBBER MAN, with enormous hanging rubber jowls; and FLIPPER BOY, with flippers for hands and feet.

Jimmy takes a surprisingly long time to look at each of them calmly, then he finally reacts accordingly ...

JIMMY

Aaaaaiiiiiiggghhhhhh!!!

The Freaks don't react at all, just another day in paradise. They wait for Jimmy to calm down.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Am - am I ... in Hell?

Flipper Boy laughs sinisterly.

FLIPPER BOY

You could say that. Welcome to Dr. Phreaks Traveling Freakshow. Are you "with it?"

JIMMY

Pardon me?

FLIPPER BOY

Are you "with it or for it?"

JIMMY

Come again?

FLIPPER BOY

(to the others)

Let's kill him.

The other freaks respond excitedly to the suggestion.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

Kill him!

RUBBER MAN

He's not one of us!

PINHEAD

Kill him, kill him!

Jimmy turns to the door and struggles to open it. Then he backs against it.

JIMMY

No! Don't! I'm a Bubble Boy! A freak
just like you! I'm with it and for it!

All the freaks are immediately silent.

FLIPPER BOY

No real freak would say it like that.

He quickly grabs a switchblade with his flipper. FFFT!
Out comes the blade.

FLIPPER BOY (cont'd)

Now ... you die.

He springs for Jimmy. And the TALLEST MAN snatches him
right out the air.

TALLEST MAN

Wait! What about Dr. Phreak? Huh? He
might want a Bubble Boy in the show.
What's he gonna do if he finds out we
popped him?

A visible chill runs through the freaks.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

Dr. Phreak wouldn't like it.

Suddenly Pinhead lets go with a train rattling shriek.

PINHEAD

DR. PHREAK!!!

Jimmy almost jumps out of his skin. But the others don't,
apparently Pinhead's scream's a rather common occurrence.

RUBBER MAN

We can't risk it.

Flipper Boy retracts his blade, disappointed. He sighs.

FLIPPER BOY

Fine. The Bubble Boy lives.

(to Jimmy)

So. You play pinochle?

EXT: STREET - A SMALL TOWN - DAY

We can hear THE ROAR of the motorcycle long before we see it. People on the sidewalk stop to watch. And around a corner CRUISES SLIM, sunglasses on, feet up on the pegs, riding slow. It's A BRAND NEW BIKE, chopped big time. And it's making a hell of a lot of noise. Then we see it, behind him, DOZENS OF BIKERS. Slim waves, onward ho! AND THE BIKERS GUN it in unison, heading off down the road.

EXT: TRAIN - DAY

The train chugs its way through Kansas.

INT: TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and the Freaks sit around a table playing pinochle. Flipper Boy expertly deals cards. Jimmy's comfortably in their midst, munching a germ free nutrition bar as he plays. Rubber Man fools around on a unicycle.

JIMMY

So I've got to get to Niagara Falls by two o'clock tomorrow to stop the wedding. Because we belong together.

There's a pause, then the FREAKS HOWL LAUGHING.

JIMMY (cont'd)

What's so funny?

TALLEST MAN

You been locked in that bubble too long kid. In the real world, the freak never gets the girl.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

You might as well give up now.

RUBBER MAN

It'll spare you a lot of painful rejection.

FLIPPER BOY

Something us freaks are all too familiar with.

The Freaks contemplate this in somber silence.

JIMMY

None of you have ever found love?

FLIPPER BOY

You think we hang around for our health kid? Dr. Phreak's the only one who'll have anything to do with us.

And Pinhead lets go with a ...

PINHEAD

DR. PHREAK!

And Jimmy jumps.

JIMMY

Must you do that?

PINHEAD

Sorry. Can't help it.

JIMMY

Listen, there's someone out there for everyone. Even freaks.

FLIPPER BOY

Yeah? How would you know?

JIMMY

Well ... I don't. But I know this. I know you're all just hiding in this freak show because you're scared.

FLIPPER BOY

So what's wrong with that? Even a freak show is better than that world out there. Here we're safe, safety in numbers, safety in freaks. No one can hurt us. I can turn to him and say ...

(to Rubber Man)

... you rubbery ugly geek! And he can say ...

RUBBER MAN

... look who's talkin, fish limbs ...

FLIPPER BOY

... and no one's hurt, cause no one's better than anybody else. Get it? People who live in plastic bubbles shouldn't go around tryin to pop other people's ... bub... or ...

(that was a terrible metaphor)

... ah screw it, I tried.

Jimmy looks them over, thinking.

JIMMY

Okay, maybe I grew up in a bubble, but I do know this. Love, true love, isn't about how many limbs you have or which parts of your body are the same as everyone else's. True love comes from the heart. And everyone deserves it. But the difference between you and me is, I'm willing to risk my life to prove it.

The Freaks stare at Jimmy, moved.

JIMMY (cont'd)

I broke free from my own personal freakshow. Now it's your turn.

But the freaks look away, not quite ready for this step.

FLIPPER BOY

But, what about Dr. Phreak?

PINHEAD

DR. PHREAK!!!

And Jimmy suddenly reacts like he could back hand someone for the first time. He collects himself, calms down.

JIMMY

Just why are you so afraid of this Phreak doctor? There's six of us and only one of him.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

But Dr. Phreak's no ordinary man.

RUBBER MAN

He's a monster.

PINHEAD

A demon.

TALLEST MAN

A cruel, cruel beast.

And the train SCREECHES TO A HALT. Everyone freezes.

PINHEAD

And here he comes now.

Jimmy's bug-eyed. They HEAR THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS approaching. A few GRUNTS.

FLIPPER BOY

What do we do Jimmy?

WE HEAR a bellowing voice.

DR. PHREAK (O.S.)

You freaks ready for a piss break?

KACHUNK! The latch is unlocked. Jimmy and the freaks stand petrified in fear. The door slides open.

Jimmy, in spite of his fear, ATTACKS, arms outstretched.

JIMMY

Aaaarrrggghh!!!

EXT: CORNFIELD - CONTINUOUS

And he flies right out the train, belly flopping into a cornfield. He shakes his head and turns back to see

... A DWARF. Reasonably tough-looking mind you, but only three feet high. Jimmy can't believe his eyes.

JIMMY

You're Dr. Phreak?

DR. PHREAK

Who the hell are you?

Jimmy looks to the Freaks all peering out the car door.

JIMMY

That's who you're so afraid of? He's a dwarf!

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

Yeah but he's a mean dwarf.

FLIPPER BOY

Very sarcastic.

TALLEST MAN

And mealy-mouthed.

DR. PHREAK

Shut up you freaks! Unless you all want titty twisters again!

They cower back. Dr. Phreak marches over to Jimmy.

DR. PHREAK (cont'd)

Now what're you doin messin with my freaks?

JIMMY

They're not your freaks.

DR. PHREAK

Oh correction. Yes they are. And do you know why? Because nobody else wants em. They're ugly, sickly little mutants who shoulda been squashed like bugs the day they was born.

(in Jimmy's face)

Just like you.

(beat)

So why don't you hop back in the car? Freak.

JIMMY

No. I'm going to Niagara Falls. To stop the girl I love from getting married.

And Dr. Phreak takes an involuntary step back. He puts a hand to his chest, clearly moved.

DR. PHREAK

That's - that's beautiful. I too once loved another.

JIMMY

You did?

DR. PHREAK

Yeah. For ten minutes. Then I paid her twenty bucks and kicked her out! Now get in that car!

JIMMY

Make me.

DR. PHREAK

WHAT?!

Jimmy hesitates. Damn this dwarf is kinda scary.

JIMMY

I-I-I said ... make me.

DR. PHREAK

(shrugs)

Okay.

Dr. Phreak CHARGES, teeth clenched, fists ready. BOOMP. He connects with the bubble and bounces off. THWACK. He hits a pole. And he slumps to the ground, unconscious.

The Freaks CHEER and jump off the train.

RUBBER MAN

You did it Jimmy!

Jimmy smiles, feeling confident.

JIMMY

I did do it, didn't I?

FLIPPER BOY

Hey, let's cut off Dr. Phreak's arms
and legs and douse him in acid.

FREAKS

YEAH!!!

Jimmy immediately intercedes.

JIMMY

Uh, guys? No, I'm pretty sure he's
learned his lesson.

The Freaks stare at Jimmy, unsure. Then Flipper Boy
sighs, shrugs.

FLIPPER BOY

Ahh ... where were we gonna get acid
anyway?

But now the Freaks hug one another, excited.

RUBBER MAN

Come with us Jimmy and let's ride this
train to our dreams.

FREAKS

Yeah!

JIMMY

Sorry guys, I have to get to Gina. But
you can do it without me, I know you
can.

They don't look quite so certain. Jimmy heads up to the
road and the Freaks plod behind him, looking rather
timid. Jimmy stops at the side of the road. He shakes
their hands. Alligator Woman squeezes out some mighty big
tears. Flipper Boy sticks a fin out.

FLIPPER BOY

Now you're with it and for it. And
don't you ever forget it.

Jimmy sticks his thumb out. And HERE COMES THAT SAME Mini-
Wini as it slows down for a look, the family horrified.

FATHER

Holy shit! They're multiplying!

Father floors it just as the WIFE lifts her camera, trying to get a shot. Too late though, as they speed off down the road, the Freaks looking on.

TALLEST MAN
(knowingly)
Oh yeah, they're gonna have nightmares.

INT: TRUCK STOP - TRUCKER RESTAURANT - DAY

The Bright Shiny People are all gathered around several tables and booths, strategizing over a map.

LORRAINE
He has no money.

BOY #1
No friends.

BOY #2
And he's heading for Niagara Falls.

LORRAINE
(suggests)
By ... hitchhiking?

TODD
Which means he'll meet more and more people and tell his story again and again. Which leaves us ...

GIRL #1
... screwed like the team slut at a kegger.

Now that stops them. They all stare at Girl #1 and she freezes, staring back, caught again.

GIRL #1 (cont'd)
Not - that I'd know anything about that.

The WAITRESS steps up with breakfast plates. The Shines instantly snap on their 100 watt smiles. She smiles back.

WAITRESS
Hey, are you them Shiny people?

LORRAINE
Yes. Would you like to join us?

And she snaps off the smile and instantly turns ugly.

WAITRESS (cont'd)
And help you pick on poor little
bubble bastards? I don't think so.

She tosses their plates down on the table.

WAITRESS (cont'd)
There's yer ham.

And then she sucks back a throat full of snot and HOARKS
A BIG GREENIE right into Lorraine's eggs.

WAITRESS (cont'd)
And there's yer green eggs.

And she marches away. The Shinies sit there, horrified
and disgusted. Suddenly, the silence is broken BY SINGING
from across the restaurant.

VOICE
"Living in the land of the loooooosst!"

All the Shinies leap to their feet and look across the
vast restaurant. And far, far in the corner is ...

ANGUS YOUNG, singing, surrounded by his cohorts.

ANGUS YOUNG
That song's got somethin, don't it?
There's - there's symbolism.

DRUMMER
Cause he's lost, right?

ANGUS YOUNG
Right. And there's, what you call it?
Double entenders cause he's sayin, ya
know, find me.

DRUMMER
Cause he's lost, right?

ANGUS YOUNG
Exactly. It just works on so many
levels.

They stop talking. Angus looks up. So does everyone else.
Gathered around their table are all the Shinies.

ANGUS YOUNG (cont'd)
No autographs right now love, till I'm
finished me snags and Vegemite 'ere.

LORRAINE
Where did you hear that song?

ANGUS YOUNG
(suddenly defensive)
Nowhere.

TODD
Did you get it from the Bubble Boy?

Suddenly all of AD/DC is excited.

ANGUS YOUNG
You know Bubble Boy? Where is he?

LORRAINE
That's what we'd like to know.

DRUMMER
You don't know either? Ah crikey.

ANGUS YOUNG
He went to the dunny for a whiz and
that's the last we saw of him. The
bloke's bonzer, I tell ya.

DRUMMER
Struth. Everybody loves him.

GROUPIE
Everybody except that weird bus cult
that tried to kill him.

BOY #1
We're no cult! We're optimists!

Oops ... silence.

ANGUS YOUNG
'Scuse me?

More silence.

ANGUS YOUNG (cont'd)
Whas that again?

Tension. Broken by ...

SLIM (O.S.)
That's them!

Everyone spins around to see SLIM AND HIS BIKER GANG
amassed at the restaurant's other entrance. The SHINIES
BREAK FOR IT as the bikers plow through the restaurant,
flipping tables and chairs and shouting.

EXT: TRUCK STOP - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The Shinies race across the lot, bikers in hot pursuit.

INT: BUS - CONTINUOUS

They charge aboard a bus and stop. This isn't their bus.

LORRAINE

This isn't our bus!

This is AC/DC's bus.

BOY #2

This is AC/DC's bus!

Todd snaps a glance back at Slim and his gang racing across the lot, all hairy, all tattooed, all mean.

TODD

Who cares! Let's get outta here!

EXT: TRUCK STOP - PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

The AC/DC bus roars to life and pulls away, leaving BOY #1 running alongside, banging on the door. He's left behind as the bus screeches wildly out on the highway, cutting off a half a dozen cars as it barrels away.

INT: AC/DC BUS - CONTINUOUS

That Bus Driver can really drive, everyone hanging on in terror. And far in the back of the bus, we see a stoned ROADIE sit up, confused, wavering, then he simply flops back down again, out cold.

EXT: TRUCK STOP - TRUCKER RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Slim and his gang all gather round Boy #1 now. He glances from face to face nervously. They glare down at him. One of the gang flips his ear. Yep ... he's screwed.

EXT: SMALL TOWN - DAY

A large sign announces: "WELCOME BACK' TO MEADVILLE, BIRTHPLACE OF GABE KAPLAN." The sign features a little caricature of Gabe himself. Next to that is a tiny, little beat up wooden sign ... "Proud home of the KKK."

PAN DOWN to show Jimmy pulling into town, RIDING A UNICYCLE. He rides like an old pro, like he's done it all his life. He spots a diner with some pickups and cars in front. There's LOUD LAUGHTER coming from inside. He heads straight for that.

INT: DINER - CONTINUOUS

Some GOOD OL' BOYS are standing around a table, howling laughing. Seated at the table is FARZHAD, a middle-aged East Indian man in a turban. He stares down at his menu

trying to ignore the men. A FAT MAN with an oil-stained work shirt bends down and gets in his face.

FAT MAN
So Mr. Ay-rab ...

FARZHAD
(just barely)
I am not Arab.

FAT MAN
... you think you can move into our town and run old Bud Garrison out of business?

Jimmy enters the diner now. He stands at the door a moment. No one seems to notice him.

FAT MAN (cont'd)
Wussa matter? Camel got yer tongue?

Everyone howls laughing. Jimmy moves for a stool at the counter, tries to get a WAITRESS' attention.

JIMMY
Excuse me Miss, do you know where I can get a ride to ...?

She SHUSHES him without looking, her attention on the harassment. A SKINNY GUY steps up to Farzhad now.

SKINNY GUY
Hold on everybody. Check this out.
(pokes the dot on
Farzhad's forehead)
Ding-dong! Ding-dong! Anybody home?

The entire place dies laughing. So Jimmy laughs innocently along, then slowly stops ... wait a minute. Farzhad looks miserable. Jimmy looks to the faces of his tormentors, laughing like jackals. This isn't funny.

JIMMY
HEY!!

INSTANT SILENCE. Everyone turns to look at Jimmy there in his bubble suit. CRASH! The waitress drops her tray. Everything is frozen silent except for blue-grass music playing on a jukebox. Jimmy quickly loses his nerve.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Uh ... anybody here - heading for ...
New York?

The Fat Man turns to Farzhad.

FAT MAN

Sooo, now ya got your weirdo friends
comin round to save ya, is that it?

FARZHAD

This man is no friend. Please, I do
not seek trouble.

JIMMY

Me neither.

There's a tap on Jimmy's bubble. He turns to see the 300
pound town SHERIFF standing there.

SHERIFF

You looking fer trouble boy?

JIMMY

(confused)

Am I ... looking for the bubble boy?

SHERIFF

And what're you doin in that there
bubble - boy?

JIMMY

Oh, okay, see, it's kind of a long
story but basically I was born without
immunities.

A GASP from the crowd. The Sheriff steps back, hand on
his pistol.

SHERIFF

Immunities? What the hell are
immunities?

An OLD MAN runs for it.

OLD MAN

I'm not stickin around to find out!

And a voice shouts out

VOICE

He's got IMMUNITIES!

Everybody runs. A mother covers her child's mouth with a
hanky as she scrambles.

JIMMY

No, no, I don't have immunities!

SHERIFF

Don't try and change your story now
boy!

Everybody runs for their lives. The COOK appears from in back.

COOK

Help me get him out of here Sheriff
before he contaminates the place!

The Sheriff and the Cook hook Jimmy's bubble arms and charge him backward to the door.

JIMMY

Wait! You don't understand!

SHERIFF

We understand plenty!

The bubble hits the doorway but can't pass through. So the Sheriff takes a few steps back.

JIMMY

Please don't ...

And he charges.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Nooooooooooooo!

FOOMP! THE SHERIFF hits the bubble.

EXT: DINER - CONTINUOUS

JIMMY FLIES OUT of the diner. And he begins to roll, bouncing around helplessly inside.

Jimmy screams as the bubble rolls right out on to the main street. He tries to look where he's going. Straight ahead ... a set of "DO NOT BACK UP SEVERE TIRE DAMAGE" spikes!

He tries to wiggle out of the way. But too late. POP! The bubble connects with the spikes. HISSSSSSSS! It starts to lose air and deflate.

JIMMY

Uh oh.

Jimmy scrambles to his feet. He whips off his backpack. The bubble is beginning to collapse as Jimmy pulls out a roll of duct tape. He efficiently and rather expertly patches up the holes. There, job done. He hits the switch and the bubble starts to inflate again. He looks about himself, nods proudly. The work of a pro.

BANG!! And a BULLET FLIES clean through the bubble, just missing him. He spins around to see the town folk down the street, all armed, and the OLD MAN aiming a rifle.

OLD MAN
You get them immunities outta here!

JIMMY
Holy crow!

And Jimmy BOLTS, running as fast as he can down the street, SHOTS RINGING OUT.

THE SCREECH OF TIRES. Suddenly a TRUCK SKIDS UP beside him. The door swings open and inside is ... FARZHAD.

FARZHAD
Get in!
(Jimmy stands there)
Quickly!

Jimmy jumps into the truck and it PEELS OUT down the road. Only then we see it's ...

AN ICE CREAM TRUCK. The side reads: "FARZHAD'S FROZEN FUN & CURRY." On top is a huge blue, six-armed Indian goddess holding an ice cream cone in each hand. A SITAR version of "Pop Goes the Weasel" blares from a loud speaker.

INT: ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy sits in the passenger seat, trying to catch his breath as he quickly patches up the bullet hole.

JIMMY
Thanks ... thanks for saving me.

Farzhad nods to that, keeps driving. Jimmy slows in his patching, turns to look at Farzhad. He can't believe it.

JIMMY (cont'd)
And?

FARZHAD
Yes? And?

JIMMY
And wouldn't you like to thank me for helping somebody?

FARZHAD
Oh. Oh no, no, no. You helped no one. They do that to me every weekend.

JIMMY
What! You're kidding!

FARZHAD
Yes. I mean, no. Ever since Bud Garrison sold me his ice cream truck.

JIMMY

But - how long ago was that?

FARZHAD

Ummm ... ten years.

(snaps his fingers)

It just flew by.

JIMMY

They've been harassing you every weekend for the last ten years!

FARZHAD

Oh I get all major holidays off. But still, my bubble friend, Farzhad Chowdry is in debt to you all the same.

JIMMY

Why?

FARZHAD

Because I am leaving this town. As of this minute. You have given me the strength. Now let me repay you. There must be something I can do.

(produces an ice cream bar)

A frozen treat perhaps?

Jimmy reaches into his pack, pulls out the NIAGARA FALLS SNOW GLOBE.

JIMMY

Can you take me here?

EXT: STREET - CONTINUOUS

As the ice cream truck zooms out of town, dozens of CHILDREN chase after it, waving dollar bills over their heads with tears in their eyes.

CHILDREN

Ice cream! Ice cream!

One little INDIAN BOY runs with them.

INDIAN BOY

Curry!

The ice cream truck speeds away from the Meadville city limits. On its way to New York.

EXT: TRAIN STATION - DAY

The circus train sits at a little station. THE CAMERA TILTS DOWN to find MRS. LIVINGSTON slapping the shit out of Flipper Boy!

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Where is he!

The Freaks are terrified, cowering as she turns on each of them, a finger in their faces, fire in her eyes.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
You ate him! Didn't you! Tell me!

She grabs Rubber Man's cheek and pulls a good half yard.

RUBBER MAN
He's - he's going to Niagara Falls!

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Why? What's there!

RUBBER MAN
A wedding.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Is that it! Is that all you know!

RUBBER MAN
That's all! I swear!

She lets go and his cheek SMACKS BACK into his face. Mrs. Livingston stares them all down, hands on her hips.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
If you freaks touched so much as a hair on his head, so help me God - I mean so help me God!

They cower, staring into hell's fury. She turns to Morton now who also can't help but cower a bit.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
I knew it, it's that whore of Babylon Morton. The orphaned slut next door. We have to stop Jimmy before he gets to her.

INT: ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Jimmy's asleep. Farzhad shakes him awake.

FARZHAD
We're here Yimmy! At the wedding!

Jimmy sits up with a start. He jumps out of the truck ... and finds himself in SOME STRANGE ETHER WORLD, everything distorted and moving in slow motion.

The ice cream truck looks tiny suddenly, a mere plastic toy, trapped with Jimmy inside huge thick plastic walls.

Jimmy looks through the walls to see the distorted image of GINA AND MARK getting married. Jimmy yells but huge bubbles come out of his mouth instead. No one can hear him. He's trapped inside a snowglobe!

The preacher closes his bible and Gina and Mark kiss. Mark's hand slides down and squeezes Gina's ass. Then Gina's hand slides down and squeezes Mark's. It starts to snow. Big flakes, like cotton candy. JIMMY SCREAMS.

INT: ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Jimmy wakes up from his nightmare SCREAMING to find FARZHAD SCREAMING TOO and the truck screeching, ice cream bars flying around them like snow flakes. THUD! The truck shakes as it connects with something. Silence.

FARZHAD

Oh dear. What have I done?

EXT: HIGHWAY - DAY

Jimmy and Farzhad walk around to the front of the truck. There they see a DEAD COW in the middle of the road.

FARZHAD

Oh no. It cannot be so. Please tell me this is a moose!

Jimmy gets a closer look.

JIMMY

No, I'm pretty sure that's a cow.

FARZHAD

Tell me it's an antelope! Tell me it's a gazelle! Please!

Farzhad drops to his knees, hands over his face, wailing.

JIMMY

Farzhad, calm down. It's just a cow.

FARZHAD

Just a cow? Just a cow Yimmy? You don't understand! In my religion, the cow is most sacred. The Mahabharata says he who kills a cow rots in hell

(MORE)

FARZHAD (cont'd)
for as many years as there are hairs
on the body of the slain beast.

Jimmy pats Farzhad on the shoulder.

JIMMY
Don't worry Farzhad, it'll be okay.
Your religion's all lies. Mom said so.

Farzhad looks up at Jimmy. Then he slowly stands, eyes
steely. In the most measured voice he says ...

FARZHAD
Pardon?

JIMMY
(backpedaling)
Um ... though I may be wrong.

FARZHAD
Yes Yimmy. You are wrong. Now I am
terrible sorry. But I can take you no
further. I must stay and atone.

JIMMY
Here?

FARZHAD
It is a sign from Allah. I must make
atonement and then I must give up this
crazy ice cream dream.

JIMMY
But you're doing well.

FARZHAD
Oh I make a pretty penny.

JIMMY
Then Farzhad, you cannot run. You
cannot let others push you around. You
must stick with your dreams. Once
you're done worshipping your false
god, you must return to Meadville, the
home of Gabe Kaplan, the star of the
show with the "second" best theme song
on television. And then Farzhad, it is
up to you to not only open the minds
of the intolerant, but also open their
mouths and feed them ice cream. Which,
as I understand it, comes from a cow
and not an antelope or a gazelle.

Farzhad nods to that, proud of the responsibility he now
carries. Jimmy places his hands on Farzhad's shoulders.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Sell your frozen fun. Face your fear.
Make people happy.

Farzhad looks at Jimmy with tearful eyes.

FARZHAD

You are a good man Yimmy ... though
you bug me just a wee bit.
(holds up a bar)
Ice cream bar?

JIMMY

Germs. Sorry.

FARZHAD

There are no germs. These are frozen.

JIMMY

What? When did this happen?

Farzhad shrugs. Jimmy hesitates. Then he tears away the duct tape covering the tire damage holes. He pokes a hand out, takes the ice cream, then quickly retapes the holes.

FARZHAD

May Allah smile upon your quest for
love Yimmy.

Yimmy smiles. Then he turns and heads down the long highway with his ice cream bar. Farzhad gets on his knees and HE BEGINS TO WAIL to the heavens. A distant COYOTE CHIMES IN.

INT: BUS - DAY

There's the AC/DC bunch, seated on the former Shinies' bus. They look weird here in the bright light, depressed. Angus Young strums a cord. Even that sounds weird.

ANGUS YOUNG

I hate this bus.

INT: BUS - DAY

There's the Shinies, looking equally out of place on the AC/DC bus. A bunch of kids see the bus as it cruises by and they cheer. The Bus Driver smiles and waves.

BUS DRIVER

I love this bus.

Then he meets eyes with the disapproving looks of the Bright Shiny People. He goes back to driving.

TODD
I hate that bubble boy.

LORRAINE
We must find him and we must atone.

A depressing silence.

BOY #2
All the way to Niagara Falls. More
driving games. More theme songs. More
endless ... stupid ... blather.

GIRL #2
More bubble boy.

They all look like they could die with the thought. Far
in back, that same ROADIE sits up again, still looking
like he's coming down from a bad high. He mumbles ...

ROADIE
... more bubbles ... more bubbles ...

And then flops back down, out cold.

EXT: HIGHWAY - DAY

The Bikers, one bike after another, lead by Slim, roar
PAST CAMERA. On the back of the last bike, arms wrapped
around the big belly of a biker, is Boy #1, petrified.

EXT: TRAIN STATION - DAY

The freaks are pow-wow-ing.

FLIPPER BOY
Jimmy helped us. Now we have to help
him. It's as simple as that. Remember
his bravery? He attacked Dr. Phreak.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN
That's right.

FLIPPER BOY
He gave us strength. And self-esteem.
And confidence.

TALLEST MAN
Really? Cause I didn't get any of ...

FLIPPER BOY
We gotta make sure he gets to Niagara
Falls. And Mrs. Livingston doesn't.

PINHEAD
MRS. LIVINGSTON!!

RUBBER MAN

(annoyed)

Yeah, okay ... maybe you do have to stop that.

INT: BORDEN LIVING ROOM - NEW YORK - DAY

CU - THE TV - and "It's Land of the Lost." Enik is saying good-bye to Marshall, Will and Holly.

There's Mark on the couch, sifting through a pile of SHOWER PRESENTS while watching the episode on TV.

MARK

No way is this better than "Jurassic Park." It looks totally fake!

Gina is also watching as she stands on a stool, arms out at her sides, having her wedding dress pinned up by MARK'S MOTHER. (A PHONE RINGS in the b.g. and Mark's Mother hurries off to answer it.)

GINA

But that's the point.

MARK

It's ... supposed to look fake?

Mark's MOTHER pokes her head back in.

MARK'S MOTHER

Gina. Your cell phone.

GINA

(taking it)

Hello?

INT: GAS STATION CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Livingston is on a cell, Morton close at hand. Outside, in the b.g., we can see their station wagon.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Well you've killed him. Happy now?

INTERCUT with Gina.

GINA

(confused)

What? Who is this?

MRS. LIVINGSTON

This is Jimmy's mother, Mrs. Livingston. And I just wanted to call and congratulate you on your role in the untimely death of my only child.

All the color drains from Gina's face.

GINA
Jimmy's ...
(can hardly say it)
... dead?

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Not yet. No thanks to you.

Gina almost collapses with relief.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
He's on his way to your wedding as we
speak. Exposing himself to all the
wickedness and filth this world has to
offer. And you're responsible!

Gina bites her lip, the words tearing her apart.

GINA
I'm sorry Mrs. Livingston, I wasn't
thinking ... I - yes of course, the
moment he arrives I'll call.

Gina hangs up and looks to Mark who's still staring with
something like disbelief and disgust at the TV.

GINA (cont'd)
You know my friend Jimmy?

MARK
Jimmy? That Bubble goof?

GINA
Yeah. He's left his bubble. To come to
the wedding tomorrow.

MARK
But ... I thought he couldn't do that
or he'd croak.

GINA
He can't.
(to herself)
He's killing himself. Over me.

The CAMERA REMAINS on Gina as the TV theme song plays in
the b.g.: "I'm lost, I'm lost ... find me ..."

MARK (O.S)
Oh man! Even this song sucks!

EXT: GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Mr. and Mrs. Livingston step out of the convenience store with bottled water and head toward their parked car.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

He's got a big head start Morton. And those freaks are clearly covering for him. Not to mention those Bright Shiny creeps, they're hiding something too. There's only you and me now. You and me and our sweet, sweet Jimmy.

The station wagon starts up suddenly and slowly pulls away, no one behind the wheel. Mr. and Mrs. Livingston stop dead and just watch it go.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

Where's the car going Morton?

INT: STATION WAGON - (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS

As it pulls out on the highway, ALL THE FREAKS SIT UP, laughing hysterically, Flipper Boy behind the wheel.

FLIPPER BOY

Enjoy the walk pig!!

And they just howl.

EXT: HIGHWAY - THE DEAD COW - SUNSET

There's Farzhad, still chanting. And gathered all around him is that same tourist FAMILY, on their knees, Father and kids smiling for Mom as she aims her camera.

MOTHER

Oops. Forgot to wind. Sorry.

FATHER

(barely containing it)

Ah fer Pete's sake Anne ... before the Hindu stops wailing.

EXT: HIGHWAY - EARLY EVENING

Jimmy staggers along, his bubble more and more dusty and beat up, tape all over it, stickers. And he's munching that ice cream bar stick down to the splinters. There's nothing left of it. He looks like he's just had sex. He holds it up to the sky, near tears.

JIMMY

Dear God, this is the best thing in the whole world. I think it's even
(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)
better than the bra section of the
Sears catalogue.

Jimmy looks around now. There ain't a whole lot out here in this part of the world. Just down off the road he can see the lights of a small town. At the intersection up ahead is a sign: "GREENSBURG, HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST METEORITE." Jimmy pulls out a map. There's black felt etched about two thirds of the way across the country.

JIMMY
It's not even on the map.
(glances at watch)
Wedding's tomorrow at two.
(does the math)
Sixteen hours left.

Car HEADLIGHTS illuminate Jimmy. And HIS PARENTS' STATION WAGON pulls up right beside him.

JIMMY (cont'd)
(horrified)
Mom!!

And he lets go an ear splitting scream. And PINHEAD STARTS SCREAMING ALONG, he just can't help it.

FLIPPER BOY
Hey! Hey! QUIET!!

Jimmy gets control of himself. So does Pinhead.

FLIPPER BOY (cont'd)
Gawd!

JIMMY
(astonished)
Freaks!

FLIPPER BOY
Man, do I really look like your mother?

JIMMY
Maybe a bit around the gills.

RUBBER MAN
We're here to save ya Bubbly!

ALLIGATOR WOMAN
We're taking you to New York!

JIMMY
You are? Alright!

MORE HEADLIGHTS.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Oh careful, here comes another

It's a bus. AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SLOW. IT JUST RAMS into the back of the STATION WAGON, sending it FLYING. It's the AC/DC bus. And inside are the Shinies.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Bright Shiny People!

LORRAINE

Bubble Boy! We're here to save you!

JIMMY

No you're not. You're here to kill me.

LORRAINE

Hey, we're nice people, got that?

JIMMY

You're not nice people Lorraine.
You're awful people.

LORRAINE

(enraged)

Look just ... get on this Goddamn bus!

JIMMY

No!

And Jimmy leaps off the road and runs for it. So the bus CRANKS it and comes CRASHING DOWN THE BANK after him. This bus is doing things no bus should, leaping through the dirt like a 4 x 4.

Jimmy heads straight for the lights of the town, running his guts out. He's lit up as the bus barrels down on him.

SHOT - INSIDE THE BUS, as the Shinies scream themselves into a frenzy, bouncing around, bloodlust in the air. We see that Roadie flying around in back, bug eyed.

LORRAINE

Get bubble boy!

SHOT - DEER and COYOTES spring into the night as the bus closes in on Jimmy, looming over him now, everyone inside CHEERING and SCREAMING.

AND WHAM! The bus is RAMMED from the side and it veers wildly, missing Jimmy. IT'S THE FREAKS in the station wagon, the rear of the car annihilated but still racing like a dune buggy. They're back for the fight.

FREAKS

Come on Jimmy! Get in, get in!

The Tallest Man reaches out to grab Jimmy, but that bus is hardly out of the game. Jimmy barely jumps out of the way as it SIDE SWIPES the station wagon.

It's A WAR between the Freaks and Shinies as they hang out the windows and jeer, spitting, enraged faces and poor Jimmy running right in the middle.

SHOT - THE ROAD ABOVE, as Slim and his gang rumble up. They look out across the scrub brush at what's happening.

SLIM

Holy shit. AC/DC and some circus freaks are tryin to kill bubble boy.

SHOT - JIMMY tumbles and falls as the bus and station wagon veer around him. They both spin in circles, dust flying as wheels churn, and they meet in the middle, slamming into each other, and HEADING STRAIGHT FOR JIMMY.

Jimmy braces himself to die. WHEN BOTH the bus and the car come skidding to a stop. Jimmy opens his eyes. The dust settles. No one moves. And then Jimmy realizes no one's looking at him. They're looking behind him.

Jimmy looks back. THE BIKERS are RIGHT BEHIND HIM.

JIMMY

Holy crow!

The BUS FLOORS it, peeling off one way, as THE FREAKS peel off in the opposite direction. The BIKERS split it, half taking the bus and half taking after the freaks.

HERE'S JIMMY'S CHANCE. He jumps to his feet and runs.

EXT: GREENSBERG - DAY

Jimmy staggers in, panting. There's a big RV park full of ... RV's, an enormous roadside bar at least an acre big, and a souvenir shop. Far in the b.g. we can see the lights of the car and the bus and all the motorcycles chasing each other and kicking up huge clouds of dust.

INT: GIFT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The shop is filled with "World's Largest Meteorite" souvenirs. Jimmy bursts in, panting. The place seems to be deserted. He spots a row of METEORITE SNOWGLOBES on a shelf. Hm, very nice. What the hell, he takes one.

And then he hears it ... THE VOICE. A woman's voice beautifully singing a Debbie Gibson tune.

DONNA (O.S.)
"I don't mind not knowing
What I'm headed for
You can take me to the skies ..."

And DONNA, a petite mousy little thing with glasses and stringy hair comes out of the backroom.

DONNA (cont'd)
"It's like being lost in heaven
When I'm lost in your eyes ..."

Donna stops with a gasp. She stares at Bubble Boy.

JIMMY
Um sorry, hi ...
(reads name tag)
... Donna. I'm a bubble boy and ...

And BEHIND HIM all those vehicles come barreling into the lot, screeching to a stop.

JIMMY (cont'd)
(indicates with thumb)
... and all those people are trying to
kill me. I have no idea why.
(she doesn't respond)
... perhaps ... you could help me?
(no response)
... a back door maybe?
(nothing)
You sure have a pretty voice.

She smiles, melting.

DONNA
Get out. Ya think?

JIMMY
Yeah. It's beautiful. And ... so are
you.

Flattery will get you everywhere. Outside, the others are jumping out of cars and buses and off motorcycles.

DONNA
Come on!

Donna grabs Jimmy's hand and yanks him into the backroom.

EXT: BACK OF GIFT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

They burst out the back and run, Donna pulling Jimmy.

JIMMY
Where we going!

DONNA

Martini's! There's always a big crowd
on Karaoke night.

There's a large sign: "KARAOKE DUETS CONTEST TONIGHT!
\$500 GRAND PRIZE!" They run through the back door.

INT: KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT

The place is packed. On stage, a FAT COUPLE is doing a
lame version of the theme from "Dirty Dancing." They
finish to a smattering of applause.

Jimmy and Donna squeeze through the crowd.

DONNA

What did you do to piss off AC/DC so
bad?

JIMMY

I taught em a song.

DONNA

You a singer too?

JIMMY

Yeah. I love music.

DONNA

Same here. It's always been my dream
to sing with the Mormon Tabernacle
Choir.

JIMMY

Really? You a Mormon?

DONNA

No. Catholic. Think that'll be a
problem?

JIMMY

(thinks/shrugs)
I doubt it.

DONNA

I just need to get to Utah. For the
love of music.

JIMMY

And I need to get to Niagara Falls.
For the love of my life.

Suddenly both sets of doors BURST OPEN. Everyone comes
piling in, all the Shinies, all the Freaks, and all the
Bikers. There's no escape. Jimmy spots an exit behind the
stage. He grabs Donna's hand.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Come on!

He drags her along, bouncing bodies off his bubble suit as he goes, and he pulls her up on stage. Jimmy tries the exit. It's locked. There's Jimmy and Donna, frozen on stage together, holding hands and looking out at one weird crowd. Everyone chasing him stops in their tracks.

VOICES

Sing or get off the stage! Get off!

Jimmy hesitates, then spins and points to the DJ.

JIMMY

Hit it!

The music to "You're the One That I Want" from "Grease" begins. Jimmy snaps up a microphone.

JIMMY (cont'd)

"I got chills
They're multiplying
And I'm losing control.

BOOS from the audience. A couple BEER BOTTLES BOUNCE off his bubble suit. But he keeps singing.

JIMMY (cont'd)

"Cause the power you're supplying
Is electrifying!"

MORE BEER BOTTLES bounce off Jimmy like hail. It looks like all is lost. And then suddenly Donna leaps in there, grabbing the other mike. She sings her heart out.

DONNA

"You better shape up
'Cause I need a man
And my heart is set on you"

Donna whips off her glasses, shakes her hair out, and goes into the choreography from the movie. Jimmy works with her, doing his best to shake that bubble suit.

DONNA (cont'd)

"You better shape up
You better understand
To my heart I must be true"

Donna rubs up against that bubble suit, unbuttoning her shirt, sexing it up. People cheer.

JIMMY

"Nothing left
Nothing left for me to do"

The two of them break into the chorus together like pros.

JIMMY AND DONNA

"You're the one that I want!
You are the one I want
Hoo hoo hoo! Honey!"

The place goes absolutely crazy with cheers and whistles. The Bikers cheer, the Freaks cheer, the Shinies ... they don't cheer.

When they finish, the APPLAUSE IS DEAFENING. The Karaoke DJ steps up and hands Donna \$500 cash.

DJ

We have a winner!

THE PLACE GOES WILD. Slim hugs Flipper Boy, then realizes what he's doing and backs off. Alligator Woman hugs a cowboy, he struggles to get free but she's not letting go. Todd and Girl #1 hug, caught up in the moment, then realize what they're doing and step apart. Todd's a bit shocked, Girl #1 ain't.

The place settles down now and they look to the stage.

It's empty.

EXT: BACK OF MARTINI'S - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and Donna sprint toward a slummy little trailer sitting off by itself.

DONNA

My uncle Pappy'll get you to New York!

Donna bangs on the trailer door.

DONNA (cont'd)

Uncle Pappy! Uncle Pappy!

Pappy, a real old man, pushes open the screen, confused.

DONNA (cont'd)

Uncle Pappy, this bubble boy needs a ride to Niagara Falls! Now!

PAPPY

Oh no. I ain't never goin back to Niagara Falls.

DONNA

Pappy, that was fifty years ago. And you went there for love remember? Well that's exactly what he's doing.

PAPPY

Yeah, but you're forgetting. I went there to stop a wedding.

JIMMY

That's what I'm doing.

Pappy stops dead, stares at Jimmy, then at the hopeful face of his niece, then back at Jimmy.

PAPPY

Well what are we waitin for!

EXT: FRONT OF MARTINI'S - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is out front now and a brawl is brewing. Shinies yelling at Freaks, Freaks yelling at Bikers, Bikers yelling at Shinies.

LORRAINE

... look at you guys! You're filthy!
Why would he want to go with you?

BIKER #1

Better than hangin around with a
peroxide mannequin!

BOY #1

Yeah! Get a tattoo why doncha!

Suddenly, Lorraine realizes she's yelling at former Shiny Boy #1, who's yelling right back.

LORRAINE

Hey wait a minute! Wait a minute!
You're one of us!

BOY #1

Not anymore! This is my gang! This is
where I belong!!

ALL THE BIKERS

YEAH!!!

One biker whips out a knife. Flipper Boy whips out his.

FLIPPER BOY

Come on fatso! Let's get it on!

BIKER #2

(pausing/hurt)

Hey ... now is there really a need for
name calling?

FLIPPER BOY

You're right. Sorry bout that.
(yelling again)
Now let's rumble ya ugly prick!

INT: TRAILER - NIGHT

Donna and Jimmy are inside the trailer, basically a compost with a dining room set. Jimmy is seated as Donna's struggling to clean the beer and grime off his bubble. Donna looks around for anything clean. She snaps a rag off the floor, then realizes they're a pair of old, skiddy underwear. She freaks and chucks them away.

JIMMY

Donna? Have you ever had ice cream?
It's the greatest thing on earth.

DONNA

Just wait till you have sex Jimmy.

And with that she yanks her shirt off. She's in a black sports bra. She starts cleaning Jimmy's bubble with her shirt now. Jimmy just stares at her, amazed.

JIMMY

Better than ice cream? Oh man.

Just then, through the window, we see an old blue Dodge Dart pull up, Pappy at the wheel.

EXT: TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Donna pokes her head out. Coast is clear. She and Jimmy hustle out. Jimmy squeezes into the passenger side of the car as Donna frantically tries to split the prize money.

JIMMY

No Donna. You keep it.

DONNA

Really? Why?

JIMMY

Because that's going to get you to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir ... and all your dreams.

DONNA

Screw that! I'm goin to Vegas!

JIMMY

Um ... either way.

DONNA

Thanks Jimmy. For everything.

They hold each other's gaze. Then Donna goes to plant a kiss on his cheek. Jimmy backs away. Donna's surprised.

JIMMY

Sorry Donna. I'm saving my first kiss for Gina.

Donna understands. She waves goodbye as Pappy pulls away. Jimmy waves his Meteorite snow globe out the window.

JIMMY (cont'd)

And I borrowed one of these!

DONNA

(to herself)

Why?

EXT: KARAOKE BAR - CONTINUOUS

They're still at it. When they all look up to see Jimmy and Pappy go cruising slowly by. No one moves. Then EVERYONE BREAKS FOR THEIR VEHICLES at the same time.

SHOT - THE SHINIES charge back aboard the AC/DC bus.

SHOT - THE FREAKS pile into the station wagon.

SHOT - THE BIKERS hop on their bikes, kick starting them.

SHOT - JIMMY looks back as all the various vehicles start pulling out behind them.

JIMMY

Uh Pappy? Did I mention that a bunch of people are chasing me?

PAPPY

Nope. Sure didn't.

Pappy looks in the mirror. HERE THEY COME.

PAPPY (cont'd)

Holy shit this is exactly like last time! Hang on!

EXT: GREENSBURG TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Pappy cranks it and floors the car. This cat can drive. He barrels straight through the RV park. The car flies between all the big RVs, people in lawn chairs barely leaping out of the way. The Dodge crashes through the awning of an old, beat up Mini Wini before exiting.

INT: MINI WINI - CONTINUOUS

The tourist Family, in bed, all sit bolt upright.

FATHER
What in Sam Hell was that?

EXT: RV PARK - CONTINUOUS

Here come the others, Freaks in the lead, flying through with the station wagon. Then the Shinies, but they don't fit with their bus and they scrape the sides of every single RV parked there.

SHOT - THE FAMILY is sent flying.

DAUGHTER
Is it another meteorite daddy!

MOTHER
Oh I should really get my camera.

THE ROAR OF MOTORCYCLES

SHOT - THE BIKERS blast through, hot on the trail.

SHOT - JIMMY and Pappy, as Pappy pulls out on the road. But he heads in the direction Jimmy just came from.

JIMMY
Pappy? I think this is the wrong way.

PAPPY
Not according to my watch.

JIMMY
Uh - okay, I didn't get that.

SHOT - All the other vehicles lurch out on the road too, tires smoking, bus almost toppling. One by one they fly by, doing speeds these vehicles were never intended to do. THE FREAKS, screaming all the way, THE SHINIES right on their ass, then ONE BIKER AFTER ANOTHER with BOY #1 whooping at the top of his lungs.

SHOT - SHINIES hot on the chase, blood lust, chanting.

SHINIES
Get bubble boy! Get bubble boy!

And far in the back, that ROADIE sits up again, confused, hair standing up, mumbling along.

ROADIE
... get bubbles ... get bubbles.

INT: THE LIVINGSTON'S CAR - NIGHT

Morton's behind the wheel, Mrs. in the passenger.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

We just couldn't rent the Park Avenue.
Oh no. A Taurus will do. We go from
our lovely Town and Country Morton ...
to a Ford Taurus.

And Morton's eyes suddenly bug. There goes the DODGE
DART, roaring past, too fast really to see the occupants.
Right behind, the FREAKS. Mrs. Livingston looks back.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

You jackasses ...!

(stops, thinks)

Speaking of the Town and Country?

ZOOM! The BUS ROARS by. Then ALL THE BIKERS, splitting
down the middle and zooming around the Livingstons on
either side.

SHOT - FARZHAD is still chanting over his cow. When
suddenly, BOOM! THE DODGE blows right through the thing,
showering FARZHAD WITH COW GUTS. And then THE FREAKS fly
through, then THE BUS, and more guts as one biker after
another blasts through the carcass.

All's quiet as Farzhad just kneels there, his cow a
flattened gut-strewn mess.

FARZHAD

Oh it's looking like one long stretch
in hell.

EXT: HIGHWAY - NIGHT

An open road. And a freight train is coming. Pappy has it
wide open, heading straight for the crossing, LIGHTS
FLASHING and barriers just starting to come down.

JIMMY

Uh - Pappy ...?

But Pappy ROARS RIGHT THROUGH, barely beating the train.
Everyone else in the chase LOCKS IT UP, skidding right up
to the gates. There's nothing they can do.

SHOT - PAPPY glances at his watch.

PAPPY

Yep, the 7458, right on time. Just
happens to be the longest freight in
America too.

Both Jimmy and Pappy whoop and howl laughing.

EXT: - TRAIN CROSSING - CONTINUOUS

THE CAMERA, from high overhead, as we see Pappy's car racing away into the night and their pursuers yelling, trapped on the other side. And from this angle, there's no end in sight to that train.

INT: PAPPY'S CAR - NIGHT

Things have settled down, the two driving quietly now, Jimmy munching on a nutrition square.

JIMMY

Who's wedding did you stop Pappy?

PAPPY

My brother's.

JIMMY

Were you both in love with the same girl?

PAPPY

(he nods)

And ... well there was this chicken. But that was a misunderstanding, I didn't even like that bird. Either way, I stopped that wedding all right.

JIMMY

How'd it turn out in the end?

PAPPY

She left us both. And I haven't spoken to my brother in fifty years.

JIMMY

Fifty years. Man. I've never had a brother. But I have a true love. I suppose if I didn't have a true love I'd sure want my brother back.

PAPPY

You know it's funny, but I don't even remember that girl's name now.

JIMMY

What's your brother's name?

PAPPY

I don't remember that either. But I'd know him to see him. And I think - I think I'd like to tell him I'm sorry.

JIMMY

What's stopping ya?

PAPPY
 (realizing)
 Nothing. You know ... I'm gonna get my
 brother back.
 (smiles at Jimmy)
 Thanks bubble boy.

JIMMY
 You're welcome Pappy.
 (he curls up)
 Just don't change your mind tomorrow
 and try to kill me like everyone else.

PAPPY
 I won't. 'Night Jimmy.

JIMMY
 (closes his eyes)
 Good night Pappy.

SHOT - THE SHINIES are sound asleep aboard the dark bus.
 Except the Roadie that is, sitting up, confused and a bit
 frightened. Then, in the dark, he looks up to find Girl
 #1 standing over him, a dirty little grin on her face.

SHOT - THE FREAKS are squeezed up against each other in
 the STATION WAGON, twitching and squirming, scratching
 and kicking out involuntarily. Suddenly Pinhead sits bolt
 upright in his sleep ...

PINHEAD
 MRS. LIVINGSTON!

SHOT - THE BIKERS stretch out in an orchard, a big fire
 dying down, bed rolls spread out, a cacophony of coughing
 and burping and farting as they settle in. BOY #1 is
 lying with that same big biker, a hairy arm wrapped
 around him. He looks a bit worried as the Biker sings
 softly in his ear.

BIKER
 "I knew a man,
 he had a gland,
 and it danced for you ...
 then fired some goooooo."

BOY #1
 Uh ... I don't think that's how "Mr.
 Bojangles" goes.

SHOT - FARZHAD is deep in battle, struggling with a pack
 of coyotes, a tug of war for his cow.

FARZHAD
 Be gone! Leave me to wail in peace!

SHOT - THE LIVINGSTONS as they push open the door of a cheap motel and flick on a light. It looks horrible, stained bed cover, threadbare chairs.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
 (sweetly)
 Oh well isn't this cozy?
 (not so sweetly)
 For the cockroaches!

FADE OUT:

FADE UP ON:

EST. SHOT: HIGHWAY - MORNING

A long, perfectly straight stretch of highway. Not a car in sight. And then Pappy's Dodge zooms past.

INT: PAPPY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy stretches awake, feeling good, yawning. He glances over at Pappy. There he is, just as we left him, both hands on the wheel and staring straight ahead.

JIMMY
 Morning Pappy.
 (no reply)
 Boy, you must be tired.
 (no reply)
 Get any sleep?
 (laughs)
 Just kidding.

Pappy still hasn't moved. Or blinked. Jimmy stares at him, holding a sort of half grin.

JIMMY (cont'd)
 So ... where are we?
 (still no reply)
 Pappy?

Jimmy goes to shake him. And it's like shaking a brick. Pappy's stiff as a board. Jimmy's eyes pop.

JIMMY (cont'd)
 Pappy! Oh my God, Pappy!

He grabs his arm but it's locked on the wheel. He tries to pull his leg off the gas but that won't budge either. Rigormortis. Jimmy can't believe it. He looks at the speedometer. 75. He looks back. Nothing but perfectly straight road. Then he looks ahead. A CURVE. Apparently the first of the night.

JIMMY (cont'd)
PAAAAAPPPPPPPPEEEEE!!!

And they HIT THAT CURVE, SAILING through the air.

Jimmy bounces around inside the car, the bubble suit the only thing saving him. He even manages to bounce right into the back seat as the car sails off one bump after another, roaring through the dirt, plowing through berms.

And then he sees it. Up ahead. A CLIFF.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Uh oh.
(thinks)
Sorry Pappy! I gotta get to Gina!
Nothing can stand in my way!

Jimmy kicks open the back door and HE LEAPS from the car.

EXT: COUNTRYSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy hits the ground, bouncing and spinning wildly in his bubble suit. He finally rolls to a stop, then sits up to watch Pappy's Dodge ...

As it slows and slows and slows until it finally coughs once and stops dead RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF. Out of gas. Jimmy gives the heavens a dirty look.

JIMMY
Good one.

EXT: CHURCH - DAY

Preparations are under way for Gina's wedding. It's right near the water. Far in the distance we can see the grandeur of the Niagara Falls.

INT: CHURCH DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Inside, a FRIEND helps Gina get her wedding dress on. Gina looks very nervous.

GINA
Still no word about Jimmy?

FRIEND
Not yet. You okay?

GINA
Yeah it's just ... he's my best friend. We basically spent every minute together since the day we met.

FRIEND

Really?

(whispers)

So did you ever - ya know ...?

GINA

(smiles)

No. Not that I didn't want to.

FRIEND

Get out! With the Bubble Boy?

Gina quickly back tracks, she's said a bit too much.

GINA

Yeah but obviously it never would've worked out.

FRIEND

Course not. I mean sure rubber comes in handy now and again but let's not go overboard.

(she laughs)

You're way better off with Mark.

Gina looks at herself in the mirror, attempts a smile.

GINA

Yeah. Way better.

INT: BUS STATION - DAY

Jimmy stands at the ticket window. He holds up a wallet.

JIMMY

(brazen)

And I have money this time. See? And my name's ...

(suddenly sheepish)

... Pappy.

WOMAN

Bus doesn't leave for fifty minutes.

JIMMY

Fifty minutes!

Jimmy looks at a clock on the wall. Noon.

JIMMY (cont'd)

But the wedding's at two. I might not make it!

The woman shrugs. Jimmy hands over the money, takes the ticket. He goes to a bench, plops down. Then he notices a LITTLE FAT KID sitting on the other end of the bench. The

kid has a WRAPPED BIRTHDAY PRESENT in his lap. He looks miserable.

JIMMY (cont'd)
You wouldn't have a motorbike wrapped
in that I could ride to Niagara Falls,
would ya?

The Little Fat Kid just shakes his head no.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Didn't think so.

FAT KID
But my friend doeth.

JIMMY
(suddenly interested)
Friend? What friend?

FAT KID
(points)
But I'm not going back there. I'm
running away. Forever.

JIMMY
I see.
(thinks about)
Why don't we get that motorbike first?

And Jimmy yanks the kid to his feet.

EXT: SUBURBAN STREET - HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy and the Fat Kid stop outside the gate of a house.
There's balloons everywhere and a LIFE-SIZE CARDBOARD
STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN in front of it. Jimmy's about to
go inside when the kid stops.

JIMMY
What is it?

FAT KID
I'm not going.

JIMMY
Why not?

FAT KID
They thaid they didn't want me. They
called me nameth.

JIMMY
Namath? Like Joe Namath?

FAT KID
No! Nameths!
(mimicking)
"Blubber Boy, Blubber Boy!
Playing with hith blubber toyth!"

Jimmy stares at the kid. And something clicks ...

INT: JIMMY'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Little Jimmy stares out the window as the boys chant.

BOYS
"Bubble Boy, Bubble Boy!
Playing with his bubble toys!"

EXT: SUBURBAN STREET - HOUSE - DAY

Anger fills Jimmy's eyes with the memory.

JIMMY
What's your name kid?

FAT KID
Louith.

JIMMY
Louith, let me see that invitation.

Louis hands Jimmy the invitation. It's PRO WRESTLING
THEMED obviously.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Pro wrestling?

LOUIS
Yeth. Everyoneth's into it.

JIMMY
But pro wrestlers are fat. How could
they be into pro wrestlers and not
into you? I mean, look at the size of
ya!
(hands back invite)
Okay, you go in. I'll take care of
this.

But Louis doesn't budge.

JIMMY (cont'd)
We don't have much time! Let's go!

Louis opens the gate and scrambles inside.

EXT: SUBURBAN BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

A big party is underway. There's an AIR BOUNCE, a big BIRTHDAY CAKE with a WWF LOGO on it, and plenty of plates and napkins with pro wrestler images on them.

The BIRTHDAY BOY is surrounded by his BUDDIES. One of them notices Louis standing there. He points.

KID #1

Hey look who's back, Blubber Boy!

KID #2

He musta smelled the cake!

All the kids laugh at Louis. Louis' lower lip starts to quiver. Just then, the BIRTHDAY MOM and DAD show up.

BIRTHDAY MOM

All right boys, guess what time it is?

JIMMY (O.S.)

IT'S TIME TO KICK SOME ASS!

Everyone spins around, startled, to see Jimmy standing on top of the air bounce. He's tied some sort of bandana around his head. In this get up he looks, in the most absurd way, like a pro wrestler.

BIRTHDAY BOY

Who're you?

JIMMY

(making it up)

I'M - I'M - HARDCORE J-DOGG ASSKICKER
THE THIRD!!

Jimmy jumps off the air bounce and lands on the ground in front of the boys. He holds his fists up in the air.

JIMMY (cont'd)

AND I AM EXTREEEEEEME!!

The boys stare at him in awe, eating it up. Louis smiles in spite of himself. The Birthday Mom can't believe what she's seeing. She turns to Birthday Dad.

BIRTHDAY MOM

I knew you'd come through for him
honey.

Dad has an odd smile frozen on his face as Jimmy goes into a major WWF-style rant.

JIMMY

SO ... YOU WANT A PIECE OF THE
ASSKICKER?? I WILL DESTROY YOU! I WILL
RIP THE FLESH OFF YOUR WEAK, SPINDLY
LITTLE BONES AND USE IT TO FLOSS MY
TEETH! BECAUSE WE SHOULD FLOSS DAILY,
RIGHT?

(in Birthday Boy's face)
RIGHT???

BIRTHDAY BOY

Yes Hardcore J-Dogg Asskicker III.

JIMMY

ALL RIGHT!! SO LET'S GET IT ON!! SHOW
ME WHAT YOU LITTLE WUSSY-BOYS CAN DO!!

Jimmy hops into the air bounce and gestures for a taker. One of the kids decides to take the challenge. He runs to the air bounce and charges Jimmy. Jimmy immediately picks him up and absolutely SMASHES HIM down.

JIMMY (cont'd)

IS THAT THE BEST YOU GOT???

The kid shakes his head, dazed. Immediately the other kids clamor for a shot at Jimmy. And one by one, JIMMY ANNIHILATES THEM. He doesn't even try to be gentle, drop kicking, pile driving, body slamming, heaving one into the picnic table, junk food flying, flinging them into a growing pile of moaning victims. Jimmy gets so carried away he hammers the Birthday Mom with a leaping body slam to the throat and her tray of sodas goes flying.

Finally, that leaves Louis. Jimmy calls him on.

JIMMY (cont'd)

COME ON LAME-O! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU
GOT!!!

Louis looks terrified. And all the kids smile.

KID #1

This is gonna be good.

Louis gets a determined look on his face. He CHARGES. Jimmy grabs him and makes like he's going to flip him. But then, in classic WWF style, he ends up flipping over himself. Jimmy moans as he lands hard.

The other kids stare, stunned. Jimmy gets up, acting furious, shakes the stars out of his head.

JIMMY

WHY YOU LITTLE

But Louis charges, smashing him down. Gasps from the other kids. And then, simply put, LOUIS GOES APE SHIT. He runs the wall, bounces off it and crashes into Jimmy just as he's getting to his feet. Louis leaps into the air and bum drops Jimmy's legs. Jimmy's getting the piss wailed out of him.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Enough! Mercy! No mas!

Louis finishes with a final stomp to the back. He holds his fists in the air, triumphant. The other kids cheer.

BIRTHDAY BOY
Way to go Louis!

KID #1
Awesome!

They swarm him. Then Louis leads the way to Jimmy. He helps Jimmy up and the kids swarm him too, thrilled. (These kids look a little beat, bleeding, one's arm seems to be dangling at an odd angle.) Jimmy and Louis share a secret nod. The Birthday parents push their way through.

BIRTHDAY MOM
Thank you ever so much!

BIRTHDAY DAD
Is there anything we can do for you
Asskicking Hump Dog?

JIMMY
Well, now that you mention it, I could
use a ride to Niagara Falls.
(no reaction)
Um - Louith said something about a
motorbike?

INT: GARAGE - SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

It's dark. Then the garage door lifts and light floods the place. Jimmy, the parents, and all the kids stand there looking in at ...

... a MINI NINJA racer. Only 14 inches high and 20 inches long at best. But mean looking.

EXT: HIGHWAY - DAY

SHOT - CU of a wrist watch. 1:10 p.m.

SHOT - AS JIMMY steers with both hands again. There he is, straddling the Mini Ninja, the bike so small it looks like he's flying down the highway with a motorcycle tire sticking out of his ass. BUT THAT THING CAN CLIP, engine

screaming. He's hunched over, his Bubble suit flapping against the wind so hard he's having a bit of trouble steering. And that suit is beat, tape all over it, stickers, dirt, scratches. It's hard to see out.

Jimmy passes cars left and right. He gives the occupants a nod and a wave. He's not the smiling Jimmy he once was, but a determined one, clenched jawed and steely eyed.

He passes a SEMI. Now this is a tough one. The moment he rounds the cab, the wind coming off it is ferocious. He can just barely hang on, the front wheel wobbling. But he plows through, then gives the semi driver the universal signal for "blow the horn" and the driver does.

Then Jimmy catches up to a car. He goes to pass it on the left but there's a line of cars coming, so he swings out on the right, cruising the shoulder. Once he gets alongside he goes to nod an apology, only to find himself face to face with ... HIS MOTHER.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Jimmy!

JIMMY

Holy crow!

Jimmy loses it. He goes FLYING OFF the road on that Mini Ninja. But he doesn't wipe out, that thing's a motocross bike now, leaping off hills ...

AND MORTON CRANKS it and follows right on his ass.

Jimmy bursts through the bushes and finds himself lurching on to the runway of a little airport. He tries to open it up but it's no competition for the LIVINGSTONS who pull alongside.

Jimmy leans a hard turn, his bubble SKIDDING on the tarmac. He has nowhere to go so he beelines it for the enormous wide open doors of an empty hangar.

He comes screaming inside but NO EXIT. And he LOCKS IT UP, screeching to a stop in a far corner.

AND THE LIVINGSTONS' TAURUS roars in, skidding sideways to a smoky stop, blocking the entrance.

Mrs. Livingston jumps out and Morton runs around. Jimmy sits on his bike, no escape, eyes darting as MRS. approaches, hands out, trying to placate.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Jimmy please ...!

JIMMY

Back off mom! You can't stop me!

Mrs. Livingston pulls out a cell phone.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Jimmy listen, just call. Just call
Gina. Make sure she wants you there.

JIMMY
She invited me!

MRS. LIVINGSTON
But she didn't expect you to come.

JIMMY
That's not true!

MRS. LIVINGSTON
So then just call. Please?

Jimmy thinks about this, suspicious.

JIMMY
Okay. Throw it. From there.

Mrs. Livingston tosses it over.

EXT: CHURCH - DAY

Everyone is gathering for the Borden-Sliwinski wedding.
Sitting on a table outside is Gina's RINGING CELL PHONE.
A hand reaches down and grabs it. But ... IT'S MARK.

MARK
Hello?

INTERCUT with Jimmy as he realizes who he is talking to.

JIMMY
Uh, yeah ... is Gina there?

MARK
Sure, who's calling?

JIMMY
Jimmy.

Mark glances around the corner of the church. There's
Gina with his mother. And she's in tears, in stark
contrast to the happy occasion.

MARK
Jimmy? Jimmy from next door Jimmy?

JIMMY
Uh, yeah.

MARK

Boy are we glad to hear from you.
Everyone's been worried sick.
Especially Gina.

JIMMY

(smiling)
Really?

MARK

Poor girl is going to have a nervous
breakdown.

Jimmy is surprised to hear how much Mark seems to care.
The Bubble Guinea Pig rolls around Mark's feet.

MARK (cont'd)

Listen Jim, you coming to the wedding
would be the best gift we could ask
for. But ever since Gina heard you'd
left your bubble, well she can't eat,
can't sleep, she's crying all the time
... and this is supposed to be the
happiest day of her life.

Jimmy listens on the other end, confused.

MARK (cont'd)

We both want what's best for Gina,
right? And since you're her best
friend, well I think you more than
anyone would understand that the best
thing for Gina would be ... if you
just went home.

The Bubble Guinea Pig continues to roll between Mark's
feet. Irritated, he gives it a kick and it rolls
helplessly away.

MARK (cont'd)

Hey, we're coming to see you right
after the honeymoon. I insisted.
You're our first stop.

Jimmy's heart sinks. Mark's right. He doesn't want to
cause Gina any pain. He's been selfish. And foolish. He
tries his best to cover his disappointment.

JIMMY

Yeah - yeah I guess ... yeah you're
right. I should probably ...

Jimmy looks at his mother and father standing there. They
look absolutely exhausted and worried. Jimmy's put
everyone through too much. He takes a deep breath.

JIMMY (cont'd)

I'll just see you guys after the honeymoon then.

MARK

I know this isn't easy on you buddy. But I just want you to know it means a lot to me. Thanks.

JIMMY

Give Gina my love.

MARK

You got it pal.

Jimmy hangs up the phone. His mother struggles with a sad, relieved smile. It looks like she's going to cry.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

My sweet boy. I know how hard this is. But you're doing the right thing.

JIMMY

Yeah ... I guess.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Do you want to go home now ... Jimmy?

It's all over. Jimmy struggles not to cry. He takes a deep breath. Then he nods sadly. Mrs. Livingston clutches at her breast, pinches her eyes shut in joyous prayer.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

Oh can you feel Him? Can you feel His presence?

JIMMY

Who? Dad? Yeah a little bit.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

No. Jesus.

JIMMY

Oh. Oh Him. Uh ... I guess.

INT: TAURUS - AIRPORT - DAY

Jimmy sits in the back seat. He looks heartsick, crushed and pale. His parents are outside, talking to two men in uniform with an "Airport Authority" car parked behind them. The men are clearly chewing the shit out of the Livingstons.

His mother's CELL PHONE RINGS. So Jimmy answers it.

JIMMY

Hello?

Jimmy hears a familiar voice on the other end.

MARK (O.S.)

Yeah Mr. Livingston? This is Mark. So Jimmy called and I said everything your wife told me to say.

Jimmy's eyes bug and he glares outside at his mother.

MARK (cont'd)

It worked like a charm. So you should be hearing from him any minute. That guy's heading home with his tail between his legs, I guarantee it.

(beat)

Mr. Livingston, ya there?

Jimmy slowly hangs up the phone. His face is impossible to read, blank, eyes unblinking.

EXT: TARMAC - AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

The Livingstons are still catching it from the airport authority.

OFFICER #1

... I have half a mind to write the two of you up, confiscate that car, confiscate that bike ...

OFFICER #2

(looking O.S.)

What the hell is this?

All four glance back. There's Jimmy in his bubble suit, sprinting across the tarmac on an interception course with a BIPLANE taxiing down the runway.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Jimmy!

Mrs. takes after him and so does Morton.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)

Jimmy don't! Please!

JIMMY runs alongside the biplane. He leaps, grabbing hold of the wing. He climbs into the front seat just as it lifts into the air. He's free. He sticks his arms out and puts his head back and howls, BORN AGAIN.

And THE LIVINGSTONS are left standing on the ground.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Honest to God Morton, sometimes I
think you want him to succeed.

SHOT - THROUGH BINOCULARS, as the Livingstons' car pulls out and heads for the highway. Then the binoculars SWING TO THE BIPLANE soaring off into the air.

We PULL BACK to reveal THE FREAKS parked on the road, the Tallest Man looking through binoculars.

TALLEST MAN
He's in that little plane!

They jump in the car.

SHOT - THROUGH BINOCULARS, as the Freaks' station wagon pulls away, rocks flying. WE PULL BACK to reveal THE SHINIES, up on a hill, TODD looking through the binoculars. He turns to Lorraine.

TODD
The Freaks are on the move!

Lorraine's changed, bug-eyed, wild hair, maniacal.

LORRAINE
Okay we follow them ... we follow them
to the bubble boy ... and then ... and
then we ...

BUS DRIVER
Why not just kill him?

He laughs. But no one else does. He stops laughing.

LORRAINE
Yeah! Let's kill the bubble boy!

AND THEY ALL CHEER. The Roadie's wearing a Bright Shiny People shirt now. He bellows ...

ROADIE
Kill the bubble boy!

SHOT - THROUGH BINOCULARS as the Shinies in the AC/DC bus pull out, rocks flying. WE PULL BACK to reveal THE BIKERS on yet a higher hill, SLIM looking through a spy-glass.

SLIM
The Shinies are pullin out!

BOY #1 is in leather now from head to toe ...

BOY #1
I frickin hate Shinies!

They jump on their bikes and roar out en masse.

SHOT - THROUGH BINOCULARS at a beautiful young girl in a bikini sunbathing in a yard. WE PULL BACK to reveal ANGUS YOUNG looking through a tourist look-out mounted telescope. The old Shiny bus is parked behind them.

ANGUS YOUNG

Ya think she's a fan?

Suddenly, THE LIVINGSTONS roar past, going inhumanly fast. THEN THE FREAKS. THEN THE SHINIES screaming out a song (to the tune of "Row, row, row your boat.")

SHINIES

"Kill, kill, kill the boy,
Kill the bubble boy,
When we pop his bubble head,
Then he'll soon be dead!"

Angus points at THE AC/DC BUS in wordless astonishment. FINALLY, all the bikers roar past in deafening thunder.

ANGUS YOUNG

I just never seem to know what's goin
on anymore.

AND FINALLY

EXT: HIGHWAY - THE DEAD COW - DAY

There isn't a whole heck of a lot left of old Farzhad's cow. It's squished flat, dried out, fly covered. But Farzhad's still wailing away. Except ... there's a crude sign up. "SEE THE WAILING HINDU. 50 cents a gander."

DR. PHREAK sits underneath the sign at a card table. There's a couple tourists there, but they look skeptical.

DR. PHREAK

Come on! How often do you get to see a
Hindu shoutin up to Allah for Christ's
sake?

The Tourists just shake their heads and leave.

DR. PHREAK (cont'd)

Yeah, get the hell outta here! Go back
to your banjos!

A WEIRD BRUSHING SOUND. Dr. Phreak frowns, looks down the road. HERE COMES A STREET SWEEPER. Before Farzhad can react, the sweeper goes right over his cow, chewing it up. Farzhad grabs the horns, struggling to hold on. But by the time the sweeper passes, there's nothing left of the cow but the horns.

DR. PHREAK (cont'd)
Great. Now what are we gonna do?

Farzhad sighs. He's had it. He tosses the horns in his ice cream truck, starts it up, and zooms off, leaving Dr. Phreak just standing there.

DR. PHREAK (cont'd)
Great. Now what am I gonna do?

INT: BIPLANE - DAY

There's Jimmy in the plane, happy as a pig in shit. When the gruffest voice barks out ...

VOICE
Who the hell are you?

Jimmy cringes, suddenly remembering he has no business being on this plane. He slowly turns around to see ...

PAPPY! In the cockpit of the plane.

JIMMY
P - Pappy?

And Jimmy slowly works himself up into the most terrifying scream of horror

JIMMY (cont'd)
Ah - ah - ahhh - AHHHHHHH!

PIPPY
Oh quiet down! I'm not Pappy!!
(Jimmy shuts up)
I'm Pippy. Pappy's brother. Or at least I was his brother.

Jimmy can't believe his ears.

JIMMY
You're him? The brother? The one he hasn't spoken to in fifty years?

PIPPY
How did you know that?

Jimmy pulls out the meteorite snowglobe.

JIMMY
Look! I know Pappy.

Pippy looks at the snowglobe.

PIPPY

(softens)

That's Greensberg. My home town.

(unsoftens)

Well I don't miss the place. And I don't miss that old son of a bitch either.

JIMMY

But - but he was coming to Niagara Falls. To say he was sorry. About the wedding and the ... chicken ... or however that part went.

PIPPY

(touched)

Really? Even the chicken?

JIMMY

He wanted to be brothers again.

PIPPY

Brothers? Yeah. Brothers. Ya know, I never really believed he was doing that to my chicken in the first place.

(sniffs)

Niagara Falls you said? Well let's get going! We'll meet Pappy there!

Jimmy freezes with a half smile on his face. He doesn't know what to say to that.

JIMMY

Ummm ... okay!

Jimmy turns to face forward. He sits back, happy, finally on his way to Gina. He closes his eyes a moment, resting.

THE CAMERA LOOKS STRAIGHT DOWN on Jimmy and Pippy. And then IT DROPS BENEATH THEM, peering through the passing clouds.

Far, far below, we can see a highway curving like a snake. And SEVERAL VEHICLES RACING ALONG IT.

EXT: HIGHWAY - DAY

The Livingstons are clipping, both trying to watch that little plane in the sky, struggling to keep up. When suddenly, THE FREAKS BLOW PAST.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Morton, isn't that the Town and Country?

The station wagon swings in front of them and slows.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
And it's full of freaks!

Pinhead and Rubber Man leer out the back window at them. Then they lift buckets. And they TOSS BLACK OIL on their windshield.

Panic, as the Livingstons struggle to see. And they SPIN RIGHT OFF THE ROAD, gravel flying, as the FREAKS PULL AWAY, jeering and laughing.

Mr. and Mrs. Livingston look at each other.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
What in God's name is going on Morton?

And then ... THE AC/DC bus ROARS PAST, shaking the Livingstons, blasting their hair about. Then THE BIKERS.

THE CAMERA STICKS WITH THEM now, a deafening roar, every biker white knuckled. Then we HEAR a DISTANT CAR HORN. The Bikers frown, what the hell is that? And suddenly THEY SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE, getting the hell out of MORTON LIVINGSTON'S WAY. The Livingstons' Taurus almost plows them down, MORTON DRIVING AT BREAKNECK speeds.

SHOT - MORTON grips that wheel with both hands, teeth clenched, eyes glaring. The wipers flip oil and murky wiper fluid around, spraying everything.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
Morton, slow down. Slow down I said!

But nothing's stopping Morton. He's a changed man. Mrs. can't help but be a little impressed, finds it sexy even.

MRS. LIVINGSTON (cont'd)
Morton ... oh my.

SHOT - THE FREAKS are all hanging out the windows, watching the biplane. When THEY HEAR THAT CAR HORN too. Here comes the Livingstons from behind, Morton passing the Shinies, just barely missing an oncoming car, and cutting off the bus so that it swerves off the road, then back, off the other side, then back under control.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN
They're gaining on us!

And MORTON RAMS the back of the station wagon.

MRS. LIVINGSTON
I hope we got that extra insurance Morton?
(no answer)
Ah great.

THE CAMERA, FROM ABOVE, as the two cars force oncoming traffic off the road as they slam into each other. THE CAMERA PULLS up and up, all the way up until

INT: BIPLANE - CONTINUOUS

We're looking at Jimmy as he stretches, a nice little rest. He couldn't look happier. He turns back to Pippy.

JIMMY

Pippy? We almost there?

Pippy's holding the joy stick, sitting up perfectly straight as though frozen, doing the exact ten thousand yard stare as his brother. Jimmy knows what this means.

JIMMY (cont'd)

(resigned)

Oh boy.

EXT: AIR - DAY

And the plane begins a slow dive to the ground.

JIMMY (O.S)

PIIIIIIPPPPEEEEEEE!

INT: BIPLANE - CONTINUOUS

The biplane spins toward the ground. Jimmy looks down to see water below, a huge river. He climbs out on the wing.

JIMMY

Sorry Pippy. I gotta get to Gina.

And he leaps out of the biplane.

SHOT - BELOW - AS THE FREAKS POINT in the sky and everyone watches that plane plunge toward ground, Jimmy free falling. The vehicles all SKID TO A STOP.

SHOT - THE RIVER and SPLASH! Jimmy hits the water and instantly the Bubble Suit pops him right out on the surface, safe.

He looks up to see the biplane correct itself. And make a perfect landing on the opposite side of the river.

JIMMY

Okay now that's starting to bug me.

SHOT - THE HIGHWAY, and all the vehicles are stopped as everyone stares to the horizon, clueless as to what just happened. No one knows what to do. And then Mrs. Livingston leans over to Morton. She whispers ...

MRS. LIVINGSTON
The church.

Morton nods. He puts the car in gear. Slowly he pulls away, acting nonchalant. But as they pass the Freaks, Flipper Boy points an accusatory fin and yells ...

FLIPPER BOY
You're going to the church, aren't ya!

AND MORTON FLOORS IT.

SHOT - THE RIVER, and Jimmy finds himself bobbing along in the current. He tries to fight it but it's just too strong. The waves are getting choppiier, the current stronger. And then he looks in the distance.

The rising mist of NIAGARA FALLS.

Jimmy just floats toward his doom, head shaking slightly, resigned to his fate. He looks to the heavens.

JIMMY
Do you not like me? Is that it?

EXT: NIAGARA FALLS - CONTINUOUS

A WIDE SHOT of the majestic falls. And THERE GOES BUBBLE BOY, swept over with the current, plunging down into the foam and mist, his scream lost in the thunderous roar.

THE CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal, standing on an observation deck ... THE TOURIST FAMILY.

They saw the space man plunge over the falls. MOTHER lowers her camera from her eye. She turns to her family who wait in anticipation. A smile creeps across her face.

MOTHER
I got it.

And the Family jumps up and down and hugs each other.

MOTHER (cont'd)
I got the picture!

FAMILY
She got the space man! She got it!

EXT: CHURCH - NEAR THE FALLS - DAY

There's the beautiful church, surrounded by the greenest grass, the parking lot full, organ music playing.

And out of the water, like a creature, CRAWLS JIMMY. He's exhausted, dripping wet. He struggles to his feet, barely keeps his balance. Then he takes in the church.

JIMMY

I made it.

He takes a few staggering steps forward. And from across the lawn, he sees Bubble Guinea Pig rolling toward him. Jimmy scoops it up.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Hey buddy. Good to see ya! Whattaya say we go get Gina?

And the Guinea Pig scampers around, dizzy with joy.

EXT: ENTRANCE - CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy stops for a moment at the steps. He can see all the guests inside, chattering away. It's about to begin.

Jimmy takes a deep breath. He walks up the steps and into the church's foyer. AND RIGHT INTO MARK and his groomsmen, all in tuxes, passing a flask between them. They stop and stare at the Bubble Boy.

SHAWN

What is this?

JIMMY

I'm - I'm here for Gina.

And Mark instantly steps in his way, threatening.

MARK

This is real bad timing Jimmy.

His groomsmen gather around him like blockers.

JIMMY

I just wanna see her.

MARK

You shouldn't've come here bro. Hate to "burst" your bubble, but Gina's minutes away from becoming my wife.

JIMMY

But - I was invited.

MARK

Yeah? Look at you. Just look at you man. You're in a frickin bubble. You can't even touch her. You're just gonna walk in there, make a scene, and

(MORE)

MARK (cont'd)

ruin the happiest day of her life. And then ruin the rest of her life on top of that. Maybe livin in a bubble makes you pretty selfish, people waitin on you hand and foot. But that's no life for Gina. That's your life dude. Not hers.

(quietly now)

Go home. If you love her, if you really care about her, then you'll just turn and walk away. Let her be happy Jimmy.

Jimmy looks to his feet. He swallows, struggles not to weep. He slowly nods. Mark's absolutely right. He takes a breath. He turns. He could die, he could just die.

He plods back out the door, each foot weighing 20 pounds, thumps his way back down the stairs. We hear "THE WEDDING MARCH" begin, the worst "theme" song in the world. Jimmy just can't look, eyes downcast. His life's over.

And then ...

FLIPPER BOY (O.S.)

Are you with it and for it?

Jimmy looks up to see all the Freaks standing there, dirty, panting, the station wagon destroyed. They all seem rather jumpy, looking to the parking lot entrance.

JIMMY

Flipper Boy? Rubber Man? Alligator Woman? Tallest Man. And Pinhead too? What're you guys doing here?

FLIPPER BOY

The question isn't what we're doing here Jimmy, it's what you're not doing in there.

Jimmy looks ashamed, he shakes his head.

JIMMY

I can't go through with it. I tried but ... I just can't.

The Freaks look disgusted.

FLIPPER BOY

When are you gonna break out of that bubble of yours?

A fat woman stops in passing to stare in awe at the freaks. So Flipper Boy cuts loose on her.

FLIPPER BOY (cont'd)

What the hell are you lookin at, ya sea monster? Huh! Go gather your plankton somewhere else!

The woman scrambles out of there.

JIMMY

Wh - what are you talking about Flipper Boy?

TALLEST MAN

He's sayin you're playin it safe.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

As long as you're afraid, you'll be trapped in there forever Jimmy.

TALLEST MAN

Isn't that what you taught us?

RUBBER MAN

That's why we're here. To stop your mother ...

Pinhead goes to scream ...

PINHEAD

MRS. LIV....!

But Rubber Man clamps a hand over his mouth.

RUBBER MAN

... and make sure you pursue your dream. You see, we can't pursue ours until we know you've achieved yours.

FLIPPER BOY

So do it Jimmy. Break out of that damn bubble! Now before it's too late!!

Jimmy looks to all their faces, feeling bigger, feeling stronger. Empowered. He nods determinedly.

JIMMY

You're right. What kind of man am I, what kind of husband would I be if I'm still trapped in a bubble!

Jimmy spins to face the door, determination in his eyes.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Here I come.

And JIMMY TEARS OPEN his bubble suit! He sticks his head out and takes a deep breath of fresh air for the first

time. This makes him feel even stronger. HE TEARS OFF THE SLEEVES, rips the suit wide open and he steps right out. But he doesn't stop there. He tears away absolutely every stitch of clothing he has on.

There he stands, NAKED AS THE DAY HE WAS BORN.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Here I come Gina!!!

And he bolts into the church, leaving the Freaks to watch his little white ass disappear into the church.

FLIPPER BOY
I uh, kinda meant that metaphorically.

INT: CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Up at the front of the packed church stand Mark and Gina before the MINISTER, Gina in veil and wedding gown.

MINISTER
And do you Gina, take Mark to be your lawfully wedded husband, in sickness and in health, in poverty and wealth, for as long as you both shall live?

Gina turns and stares at Mark. She takes a deep breath, hesitates. The pressure's on.

GINA
I - I ...

Mark's eyes dart around the congregation. He whispers ...

MARK
Come on Babe.

JIMMY (O.S.)
GINA!!!

Everyone in the church turns with a COLLECTIVE GASP. Standing at the end of aisle is Jimmy ... buck naked.

GINA
Jimmy?

MARK
What the hell is this?

And then behind Jimmy ENTER ALL THE FREAKS. The Minister looks around in a panic.

MINISTER
Someone call the police!

JIMMY

Wait, just hear me out!

GINA

Let's hear him out! Everyone!

Silence. Jimmy takes a step forward. Another step.

JIMMY

Gina ... Gina I ...

And suddenly he giggles uncontrollably and squirms.

JIMMY (cont'd)

The breeze is tickling my scrotum.

So the Tallest Man reaches up, tears down a Just Married banner, and Alligator Woman wraps it around his waist.

MINISTER

Can we get on with this please?

JIMMY

Oh yeah, okay ... Gina?

MRS. LIVINGSTON (O.S.)

JIMMY!

And they all spin around again. There's Mr. and Mrs. Livingston at another door.

JIMMY

Mom!

The Freaks look in unison to Pinhead. He can barely contain himself. So they give him the nod, go ahead. And he puts his head back and screams ...

PINHEAD

MRS. LIVINGSTON!!!

That makes everyone jump.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

(confused)

Yes?

Gina's getting annoyed.

GINA

Okay, can we have just a little quiet here please?

Only to have THE SHINIES all come charging in through a side door. They stop dead, stunned to see a wedding.

THEN THE BIKERS barge through the main entrance and they stop with the freaks, panting, ready to rumble.

Jimmy puts his arms up like a traffic cop.

JIMMY

Okay stop! Everyone stop! Stop!

Silence. Finally. Nothing but the sounds of panting.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Thank you. Gawd.

(to Gina)

Gina?

GINA

Yes Jimmy?

JIMMY

(searching for words)

Gina, I'm - I'm ...

(he looks at the faces)

Gina, I've spent my whole life in a bubble. And you were my eyes to the world. What you saw, I saw. But I didn't know anything, I never took anything in with my own eyes, I never experienced the world. Well let me tell you, in the last few days, I've experienced a few things.

(indicating everyone)

Perhaps you can tell.

(points)

See these people over there? They left me to die in the middle of Death Valley.

The Shinies look to their feet in shame. There's booing.

JIMMY (cont'd)

No, no. None of that. Because then this gentleman here, he took me to see a real rockin band. Then these circus freaks here wanted to kill me, but they became my friends too so I was with it and for it. Then I was shot at for having immunities when I don't even have them and I met a man who thinks God is some guy named Allan and hell is a cow's back or ... something like that. Then I did a song from "Grease," had the driver of a car die on me, then the pilot of a plane die on me. And they were brothers! And let's not forget that only minutes ago I plunged over Niagara frickin Falls!

Jimmy takes a deep breath. The guests stare in awe.

JIMMY (cont'd)

The point is Gina, the point is ...
I'd do it all again. In a minute. I'd
do it in the blink of an eye, knowing
I'd finally get the chance to say ...
to say to you ...

He seems frightened suddenly. He glances about. The
Freaks are nodding encouragement. So are the Bikers. The
Shinies aren't, but they're engrossed. His Mother's
shaking her head no. Finally, he says it.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Gina I'm lost without you. I love you.

Gina looks like she could faint, eyes swimming in tears.

GINA

I love you too Jimmy. I always have.

ANOTHER COLLECTIVE GASP.

MARK

Um, Babe? Hate to interrupt ...

But Gina ignores him as she moves down the aisle.

GINA

You did this for me. You broke out of
your bubble, you did it alone. But I
was scared Jimmy, scared to make a
move on my own. And scared of losing
someone I love again.

JIMMY

But it doesn't matter, don't you see?
Maybe we'll have an hour, maybe twenty-
four hours, so what? Because love
lasts forever.

Gina steps a mere foot away. She weeps openly.

VOICE

Oh for God sakes Katherine, tell them!

Everyone looks to the Livingstons now. Mrs. Livingston is
staring at her husband in shock. He's standing before
everyone now. And he looks angry.

MORTON

Jimmy, you're not dying!

MRS. LIVINGSTON

He's lying Jimmy! Don't believe him.

MORTON

That's enough! Now tell him the truth.

Morton glares at his wife. He's a different man. But still she says nothing, defiant.

MORTON (cont'd)

Fine, then I'll tell him. Jimmy, you developed immunities when you were nine years old. Your mother ... and I ... we chose not to tell you.

(shakes his head)

I'm sorry.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

(without conviction)

He's - he's lying Jimmy ...

MORTON

You heard me Katherine. That's enough.

Mrs. looks at her husband. She can't bully him anymore.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

I only did it because I loved you Jimmy. There's so much evil out there, so many horrible things ...

JIMMY

No mom, you're wrong. Look around. Look at all these people. They're here because they care about me. Right you guys?

The Freaks nod enthusiastically. The Bikers nod. The Shinies don't do anything though.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Shinies?

So they finally nod, wincing, they hate to admit it.

JIMMY (cont'd)

See? It's okay out here ma, it really is.

(beat)

Don't worry, I don't hate you.

Now that stops Mrs. Livingston.

MRS. LIVINGSTON

Who said anything about hating?

Jimmy turns back to Gina now.

JIMMY

Since I'm not dying any time soon ...

(beat)

Gina Sliwinski, will you marry me?

Gina beams a smile. She steps into his arms. And finally, finally, in close up ... THEY KISS.

THE CAMERA CUTS WIDE to reveal the entire church and THE WEDDING'S ON AGAIN, but this time Jimmy's in the tux. Everyone has squeezed into the pews, Freaks, Bikers, Shinies. And EVERYONE CHEERS.

Mark sits there in tee-shirt and boxers. That's his tux Jimmy's wearing.

MARK

Why would she wanna marry that freak?

And Flipper Boy spins around, fin pointing.

FLIPPER BOY

Hey! I already slapped ya out of that tux. You want me to slap ya naked?

Mark backs off, frightened.

MINISTER

Ladies and gentleman, allow me to introduce, Mr. and Mrs. James Livingston!

Jimmy and Gina turn and face the crowd. They smile as the music begins and the guests applaud. FLASH! With the flash of the camera, we cut to:

EXT: WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY

A BRIDE AND GROOM SNOWGLOBE sits atop the wedding cake.

Gina and Jimmy, holding hands, make the rounds of the guests all outside on the front lawn of the church.

They pass the biker table. The Bikers are in with the Freaks, all drinking beer and laughing. Flipper boy is flipper/arm wrestling with a huge biker. And HE WINS. Slim has Alligator woman on his lap. They look damn cozy.

ALLIGATOR WOMAN

You were right Jimmy, there's someone for everyone.

JIMMY AND GINA

Great!

Jimmy and Gina move on. They stop to watch the band. It's AC/DC of course, the band all wearing BRIGHT SHINY PEOPLE tee shirts and Angus Young struggling to get everyone through a verse of "Land of the Lost," with the Shinies doing back-up and throwing in their clunky white-people dance moves. It's not great, but it's fun.

Jimmy and Gina pass the AC/DC bus just as Boy #2 hurries out, holding his pants up and smiling from ear to ear.

BOY #2

I know what fellatio is now!

And Girl #1 hurries out behind him, shushing him.

Jimmy and Gina turn and look at all the guests, smiling.

ANGUS YOUNG

One! Two! Three!

A wild hard rock version of "Land of the Lost."

GINA

Let's dance!

Gina pulls Jimmy out on the dance floor. They're joined by Mr. and Mrs. Livingston, who swing dance like pros. Then all the others charge out, everyone ready to live happily ever after.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Well, there you have it. The story of my first twenty-eight years on Earth.

(beat)

And if I've learned anything, I guess it's that in many ways all of us are trapped inside our own bubbles, struggling to find a way out.

(beat)

My way ... was Gina.

THE MUSIC CONTINUES as

CUT TO:

EXT: SCHOOL YARD - DAY

There's Louis, wrestling all his new friends. It looks like he's really hurting a few. And enjoying it.

INT: VEGAS - SHOW

There's Donna, belting out a tune on stage. She's a new woman, a sequined dress, hair down. A drunken conventioneer tries to climb up there and she boots him back into the audience.

EXT: AIR STRIP - NEW YORK - DAY

There's Dr. Phreak and a bunch of people gathered around Pippy's biplane, Pippy still frozen at the stick.

MAN #1

... and down he came, perfect landing.
And he did it dead.

DR. PHREAK

Well that's gotta be worth somethin.

EXT: MEADEVILLE - DAY

There's FARZHAD handing out ice cream to the kids. The cow horns are mounted on the grill of his truck. He's smiling, happy. When suddenly, the townsfolk charge the truck, GRAB FARZHAD, and off they go with him.

And finally ...

EXT: PHOTO MAT - STREET - NEW YORK.

THE MUSIC STOPS.

There's our tourist family, frowning down at Mom's photos. Every single shot blurred or completely black.

FATHER

Ah fer Pete's sake Anne.

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS. BUT ... WE'RE NOT DONE YET.

Under the credits, A SCENE POPS UP. It's Jimmy and Gina and their entire "dream sequence" bubble family, running through that field again. Except, now they're all out of their bubbles, skipping happily, the boy, the girl, the dog, even bubble gerbil free. They're holding hands, joyous ... and JIMMY TRIPS. They stop. He stands, ankle twisted, wincing. He resumes skipping with them again, hobbled, but he forces a smile. And doesn't see THE TREE BRANCH. HE NAILS IT hard with his forehead. There he sits in the grass, gripping his skull in agony as his family gathers around him, worried. A BEE'S NEST, shaken loose from the blow, falls out of the tree.

JIMMY

Bees!!

And the entire family scatters, running for their lives.

THE END